



Daily Report

Latin America

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6 March 1989

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Azcona Opens San Jose V Conference in Honduras
PA0403040589 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video
in Spanish 1801 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Speech by Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo to open the fifth conference on political dialogue and economic cooperation held by the EC member states, the Central American countries, and the Contadora Group member states in San Pedro Sula, Honduras—live]

[Text] His Excellency Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordóñez, president of the EC Council; your excellencies ministers of foreign relations and heads of delegations; your excellencies representatives of international organizations; your excellencies ambassadors accredited before the Honduran Government; your excellencies members of the EC; honorable president of the National Congress; honorable commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces; honorable Supreme Court magistrates; honorable governor of Cortes Department; honorable mayor of San Pedro Sula; special guests; local military, civilian, and church authorities; ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure for me to extend a most cordial welcome on behalf of the Honduran people and Government to the distinguished participants in this fifth ministerial conference of the Central American countries, the EC member states, and the Contadora Group. Messrs foreign ministers and delegates, your presence is an honor to us and demonstrates the importance your governments and organizations attach to a normalization of the Central American situation.

San Pedro Sula, which has a traditional enterprising and friendly spirit and barely had 3,000 inhabitants at the turn of the century, has today become the leading agricultural, industrial, and commercial center in Honduras. All of us Hondurans share the generous and hospitable spirit of San Pedro Sula. Perhaps it is because of it and because of our attempts to solve our various problems that we have managed to stay away from the violence that has rocked the entire continent during this decade.

By defining Honduras as a democratic state organized to ensure its inhabitants the enjoyment of justice, freedom, culture, and economic and social well-being, our Constitution expresses our nation's aspiration to reconcile civil and political liberties with the country's overall development. We firmly believe that a people's independence is tied to a freedom of choice based on individual decisions that are periodically expressed in a collective way; on limitations of state power; and on the subordination of government policies to the people's will. We are convinced that individual freedom and human rights for all complement each other and that social justice has only been achieved in countries that also defend civil and political liberties.

This is the path we have freely mapped out for ourselves, and we must persevere on it with the assurance that the key to our development and our individual and collective improvement lies in perfecting our fledgling democracy. In this sense, I wish to make this very clear: We, the Honduran people and Government, are activists in the field of democracy. Because we are convinced of the virtues of this system, we hope that all of us Central Americans will find the basis for a harmonious and productive coexistence under democratic principles. Furthermore, Honduras has neither the desire nor the means to impose its own (?convictions) on other states. We understood, however, that when we signed the Esquipulas II agreements, each signatory also asserted his democratic beliefs and his intention to bring an end—through national reconciliation—to the internecine struggles plaguing some of our fraternal Central American nations.

We Hondurans, who are (?located) at the center of Central America, are conscious of the fact that our destiny and history are intimately linked to those of the other countries of the region. For this reason, I am pleased to reassert our firm commitment to comply with the Esquipulas II agreements. We think these agreements encompass appropriate principles that, if complied with in good faith, may solve the problems blocking the achievement of peace and well-being in Central America.

In our opinion, we must do the following to achieve peace throughout the region:

1. End the armed conflicts existing in some of the region's countries through dialogues for national reconciliation and democratization.
2. Guarantee the security and territorial integrity of each of the region's countries.
3. (?Return) the refugees to their countries of origin or relocate them in third countries that will offer asylum.
4. Revitalize our economies and fairly distribute the benefits.

Central America is in a transitional period between armed and civil struggles; between tension and cooperation; between estrangement and a pooling of efforts to solve common problems. It is undeniable that the Central American governments and peoples share the responsibility for restoring peace and all the benefits it entails to this strife-torn region. I feel that, since we are on the way to solving the political problems, the time has come for us to (?center) our efforts on the development of the Central American economies to improve our fellow citizens' standard of living.

From the 1950's until the late 1960's—when armed domestic conflicts began in several countries in the region—the economy grew at a rate of over 5 percent per year, and per capita income doubled in Central America. The area substantially improved its physical infrastructure and modernized and diversified its agriculture. Trade within the region and with the rest of the world greatly expanded. Without doubt, the Central American

Common Market gave a big boost to the area's economic progress. It is evident, however, that the burdens and benefits from the integration process were not fairly distributed among the region's countries and that the progress achieved only partially reduced the existing socioeconomic inequalities.

The region's economic expansion stopped around 1980 because of the increased conflicts and the differences inherent in integration efforts. This situation persists to date. The political violence, the physical destruction, the world economic recession, and the high cost of servicing the foreign debt have combined to impoverish Central America.

It is time to bring together our resolve and efforts to overcome the regression we have suffered [words indistinct]. It is time to bandage our wounds, to rebuild what has been destroyed, and to rebuild for the future. This is a time for reflection and [words indistinct] to change the course of our society. This will bequeath to all Central Americans a homeland in which everyone will enjoy health, education, employment, and decent housing and in which freedom, respect for human rights, and peace will be a tangible reality, not a simple statement in laws and political conventions.

In keeping with all of these ideas, I will propose at the next meeting of Central American presidents, for the benefit of our peoples and as a new push to real integration, that we eliminate all barriers hindering free trade on all staple foods.

It is imperative that we Central Americans act more in unison. There are countless areas in which we can work together. Suffice it to point out the impact that a revival of Central American trade should have on the reduction of unemployment and the improvement of our fellow citizens' standard of living. I repeat: It is our duty to achieve these goals. It falls on us to develop our own economies and to make certain that each and every one of our fellow citizens will have a decent standard of living.

The (?cooperation) of the United Nations and the international community is, however, not only welcome but an extraordinarily useful complement to the efforts we are making. The Honduran people and Government as well as Central America fully appreciate the cooperation we are receiving from (?your) countries and international organizations such as the United Nations, the OAS, and the EC, to mention only a few.

European and American friends, your participation in this fifth ministerial conference is an act of solidarity and a reassertion of the moral commitment that the states you represent freely undertook to promote Central America's democratization, peace, and development. We will be eternally grateful to you for this commitment.

We must clarify however, that Hondurans and I personally believe Central Americans do not expect to live from international charity. We firmly believe the most valuable aid that could be given to us is the aid that will permit us to live by our own means. Our priority, therefore, is to secure the access of our products to international markets. As an example, I want to note that a small reduction of the EEC's coffee import taxes allowed Honduras to obtain significant additional revenues last year. To highlight the importance of this fact, I want to note that there are some 50,000 coffee-growing families in Honduras and that over 500,000 Hondurans—from a population of less than 4.5 million inhabitants—earn their living from coffee-growing. The benefits obtained thanks to that reduction of coffee import taxes benefited a majority of the population, particularly the most needy groups. We wish this example could be repeated with other products whose exports to various markets is difficult due to artificially created barriers.

The payment of the foreign debt is another area in which the international community's understanding and prompt and decisive action could substantially help us achieve our socioeconomic goals. The adversities in the international economy and the difficult circumstances we have endured in the past 2 decades have forced us to use international credits to find resources to meet our peoples' most urgent needs. The foreign debt has led us to the paradoxical situation of becoming exporters of capital. We have a negative flow of resources because of payments on the debt.

As an example, I want to mention that the Honduran budget allocates approximately 35 percent of the country's net revenues to servicing the foreign debt. This means we can very well repeat what Brazilian President Jose Sarney said during his speech at the 40th UN General Assembly session. He said: Our peoples have reached the limit of their resistance. In this sense, it is necessary to give a break to Central America by adopting measures that would actually make payments feasible, such as additional grace periods, lower interest rates, and longer terms. Otherwise, the path to recovery will be even more difficult.

Distinguished guests, I want to take this opportunity to greet our dear Contadora Group brothers. Their dedication and efforts for Central America prove that Latin American solidarity is not just words but rather specific and valuable actions. The role of the Contadora Group, far from being diminished due to the progress of the Esquipulas agreements, has been enhanced, because this Central American initiative is the result—to a large extent—of the dialogue the Contadora Group began several years ago. Their efforts in these difficult times will be remembered as one of the most noble actions in the history of our continent.

From our EC friends we have learned that past problems, regardless of how serious they were, do not prevent peoples from walking—supporting each other—together

toward the path of peace and progress. At the same time, Europe has taught us that, unfortunately, ideological barriers can turn into physical barriers that deny men the right to become brothers. We have learned both lessons. I am therefore committed to making my utmost efforts so that the first lesson becomes a reality and the possibility of a Central America in conflict becomes nothing but a bad dream. Thank you very much.

Spain's Fernandez-Ordonez Speaks

PA0403235289 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video
in Spanish 1745 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Speech by Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, president of the EC Council of Ministers and Spanish foreign minister, at the opening ceremony of the fifth EC Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation held by the EC member states, the Central American countries, and the Contadora Group member states in San Pedro Sula, Honduras—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] When people wonder what the EC is bringing to Central America, the answer is that we are not bringing interference or manipulation. We are bringing an old idea: respect. Respect is the basis for true friendship.

Based on that respect, the EC and the Central American countries signed a cooperation agreement in 1989—in 1987 I mean. We studied the negative effects of the Central American economic situation and we then showed our political resolve to create new mechanisms for dialogue. We marked the importance of Central American unity and the suitability of establishing ample cooperation between Europe and Central America.

We, however, must not forget that in the last 10 years, Central America has experienced perhaps the worst crisis in its history since the dissolution of the united provinces. There is now a real chance to overcome that crisis. Past problems must teach us the enormous human and material losses Central America has suffered because it has not taken advantage of opportunities to achieve peace. Many opportunities have been missed in the last 10 years. As a result, the conflict and bloodshed in Central America have continued.

There is an opportunity for peace now. Perhaps some of the Central American problems are not as impossible to solve as we think they are if one looks at them from a statesman's point of view and if one takes into account some of the region's common interests.

I want to point out here that the last few San Jose conferences have been linked to the progress made in attaining regional peace and unity. There has been a certain correlation between the San Jose conferences and the progress made in that process. [passage omitted]

All those involved in the regional peace process reached the general consensus that the most adequate, suitable, and perhaps the only solution to the regional conflict continues to be full compliance with the agreements signed in Guatemala in 1987.

The most positive result of the meeting of the five Central American foreign ministers with the UN secretary general is a greater flexibility in negotiations, the pledges made by Nicaragua, the presidents' pledge to prepare joint plans for demobilization, repatriation, relocation, and pardons, and the appeal to all sectors—particularly rebel movements—to take their place in domestic political life. Just yesterday President Duarte took the initiative of allowing a dialogue to take place—tomorrow, I believe—with the FMLN. We believe this represents another step in the search for peaceful and negotiated solutions.

All this means that agreements to reach peace are possible. However, agreements are not enough; they must be fulfilled and fulfilled in good faith; a political willingness and basic mutual trust are essential and must be demonstrated. The international community is watching Central America. Central America is facing the historic opportunity of proving that it comprises a group of countries capable of achieving political solutions to their problems on their own by establishing a genuine peace process, by holding open dialogue among themselves, and by improving social and political stability.

If Central America achieves these goals, it will not have the international prestige of a weak region that cannot staunch the river of blood and injustice that unfortunately has grown in recent years. [passage omitted]

Cuba

Castro at 12th National Seminar on Education

PA2702193689 Havana Cubavision Television
in Spanish 0406 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the closing ceremony of the 12th National Seminar on Education; date and place not given]

[Text] Comrades, I think this should be a brief ceremony. You have been holding discussions for 3 days, and I think that you have done a good job. You deserve to be set free so that you can go and do your jobs.

I cannot say that I know all about what you have been discussing and analyzing. I can only say that I have skimmed the report you have analyzed. I believe [Education Minister Jose Ramon] Fernandez will send me a synopsis of it. Everytime he sends me a synopsis of something, he sends me about 60 pages. [laughter] He does this at any hour of the day or night. It could be in the wee hours of the morning. Well, I take it and read it quickly.

I had an opportunity to participate in the debates for a few hours, and I think I have an idea of the results of the seminar. I think they are good.

In this era of so much criticism and self-criticism, one almost has to apologize to say that something is good.

I sense a good attitude within the education sector. If we take into consideration that a similar meeting was held only 2 years ago and that not much time has passed, it seems to me that it can be said that great progress has been made between the 11th and 12th seminars.

I cannot say that much about the debates because they were not mentioned in the report I read. I am going to talk about what I perceived here at the meeting. However, the report covering the past 2 years is positive.

I think that progress has been made in many areas. This was evident here, to a certain extent, in this afternoon's meeting—if we were to analyze certain aspects, for example. These were matters that were a big problem 2 years ago.

There were talks, for example, on special education. I see that we are advancing quickly in this area. In a relatively short time, we will have the 80,000 students registered, which is the number we said was necessary. We must not get discouraged because the comrades of Pinar del Rio said that they have [words indistinct]. Do not go around believing that things are achieved easily. Do not go around believing that if we want to, we can solve this or that problem easily, or that if we want to, we can easily build a school of one kind or another.

We have to fight hard to get these things. I follow the principle of not getting discouraged.

That is why one has to follow certain regulations. I have always carried out a number of economic projects, especially projects that constitute a means of saving foreign exchange or generating convertible foreign exchange. Other economic projects have also been carried out because we cannot get careless about the country's economic development, and with our very limited resources, economic projects are considered priorities.

Construction and food production are considered very high priorities because of their importance. We have carried out a number of really ambitious food production programs and some very ambitious economic programs as well. We have been forced to give certain projects priority over others. I may, perhaps, have failed to make a thorough, in-depth review of all our projects. I am more familiar with issues pertaining to Havana, but I do not know what this year's plans are for child care centers, special schools, or medical clinics in the rest of the country.

However, I believe that the comrades in the party have favored these plans because, after broadly analyzing the policy we have followed in the construction field, I asked the comrades on the board to discuss the plans with each one of the provinces to determine what projects had been given priority, and to determine the new priorities without sacrificing the projects already under way so that they would not be too adversely affected. I also asked them to discuss construction plans for social works with each one of the provinces. I have not seen them, but I am sure that the provinces must have supported them.

Of course, among the social works, we have given priority to housing, and at the same time we have also included child care centers, special schools, and other necessary projects. I do not have all the details, but I will try to look into this as soon as possible.

We still have some funds. There are still some reserves, so I do not believe construction plans lack money. It is possible that some of the projects already approved have not yet been started in some provinces, and maybe that is why there are no special schools in Pinar del Rio. However, I will continue fighting for that program. I will do everything I can, without sacrificing other things that are more urgent at this time.

The housing program is the second priority, and it should be complemented with social works. We must build child care centers, schools, and medical clinics.

The situation is different in Havana, where 110 child care centers have been built in 2 years. You can see that it was an effort. No child care centers had been built in Havana before those 110. Even if the state and the party thought that a child care center was urgently needed and should be built, it was not possible because there was no labor force. However, with the creation of the microbrigades, we have the necessary labor force.

We had planned to build five child care centers over a 5-year period, and the construction had not even begun. Nevertheless, we have built 110 of these centers in 2 years, because we acquired the labor force. The production of material has increased, but we have such a big labor force that we still do not have enough material, although we are creating thousands of production lines for all kinds of material. We will have the material we need, so you can rest assured that none of these programs will be sacrificed.

The demand in Havana was for facilities that could handle 19,500 children, and we built centers to handle as many as 24,000 children in 2 years. That is why we said that the program in Havana was for five child care centers, which does not mean that it must be for five in the rest of the country, as the needs may be greater elsewhere. Havana has made great progress with this program.

As for the medical clinics program in Havana, it will be completed this year. There is no need for more medical clinics. That is why no new medical clinics will be built in Havana this year, but those already started will be finished.

We had planned to build 24 special schools in Havana, all of which will be ready this year. There will be no more special school programs for Havana. Child care centers will be built as required.

In Havana, we have in mind a project that will be delayed a bit. This program concerns mainly the secondary schools and primary schools. In Havana, we have begun to contemplate a problem from another angle. How many old schools are there that are inadequate, that have too many students per classroom, and that lack proper ventilation? We intend, within a period of [word indistinct] years, to build all the primary and secondary schools that the capital needs. Primary schools will have semiboarding houses, and the secondary schools we build will also have them. The problems that mothers have with their children when they are 3 or 4 years old are the same as when they are 6 or 7 years old. And the problems that mothers have with their 11-year-old child are the same as when the child is 12 and begins his secondary education.

We are viewing all these future needs in order to be able to meet them completely. Of course, we will need funds and food, and therefore, anyone can understand why we give priority at this time to any food production program, or any economic development plan.

Regarding the child care centers, we feel that these are excellent institutions, and we believe that some day, when possible, these centers should not be for the children of working mothers alone, but for all children.

This will not be mandatory, of course, because [words indistinct] in a care center? However, it is unjust—or painful, if you like—to have children who go to care centers and others who do not.

Children who go to a care center are better developed and attain higher intellectual development because they are at an age when the mind can still be developed, whereas in their homes—no matter how well they are treated and no matter how well educated they are—they do not get the attention they would get at a care center, live the life they would live at a care center, get the encouragement they would get at a care center, or meet the professors and specialists they would meet at a care center. Perhaps not all the necessary resources are available, but the children's intelligence is developed at the care centers. We do this to fulfill the working mothers' needs, and we will do it for all the children—possibly all the children, meaning those who want it.

All mothers will want their children to go to the child care centers. But that will be at another stage when our country has more resources. The care centers will be improved. I have a very good impression of the care center we dedicated. The staff members are very young and have been well trained. The results of good education are very evident there. Here in Havana, a tremendous effort was made to train the care center staffs. A course was given to all of the personnel, the aides, and the teachers. The child care center staffs received the best training.

There are music teachers, and despite not receiving very specialized training, they are undoubtedly performing their jobs extremely well. They have a true teaching vocation. I can very well imagine what could be achieved with these new programs in the arts sector of the Education Ministry. The director, assistant director, the care center staffs, and so many more give such a good impression. They are devoted. In the care centers, we have reduced the staff from a little over 50 to 48.

We are very demanding in this regard, as this is a very delicate job. We did not want there to be a personnel shortage at the care centers. If the centers lack personnel, the teachers must work long hours. Because it involves working with children, this is an area that has lacked supervision. We must also think of another member of the care center—the doctor. This year, there will be about 12 doctors. There are approximately 400 doctors in the communities, with over 100 in the care centers, the schools, and the factories.

This concept of the family doctor includes the schools, the care centers, and the factories. The concept [words indistinct]. That is why priority has been given to the community. However, even the [words indistinct], and this is the house of the doctors and nurses, and building 600 of these is a very serious affair. It is best to have about 450. But this year, or by the end of the year—in the last three months—there will be dozens of doctors assigned to the care centers.

Therefore, the care centers will have nurses and doctors. The doctors will be specialized in general practice, but they will have completed their studies like the others,

and it is probable that many of them will later want to become pediatricians. The care centers will be improved. I have high hopes for the care centers, and [words indistinct] that accumulation of needs resulting from very specific criteria. The care center was like a social expense. However, education is also a social expense. There is [words indistinct] of education, and the expenses are [words indistinct].

The care centers liberate over 200 mothers. These mothers are well-trained, considering that women compose a major portion of the nation's technical forces. These women are teachers, ministers, skilled workers, and trained doctors and nurses. When a care center is created, its services are placed at the disposal of the mothers. The mothers of these children and the children themselves receive extraordinary benefits. The care centers should no longer have a long list of needs [words indistinct] a center. Many of them were old. Today the care centers have been standardized, and, as you well know, they handle 210 children. It will not be long now before all primary schools will have adequate facilities.

All secondary schools will have adequate facilities, too. Right now there is only a shortage of space at the pre-university level. There are serious problems in this regard in the capital. Last year, we tried to build two pre-university schools in the interior, but we had problems obtaining prefabricated materials. We are planning to begin the construction of two more schools. We have to build approximately 30 schools in the interior—mostly in Havana Province—to accommodate the students in the capital. We have thought of having the microbrigades build them. In the future, all our schools throughout the country, no matter what kind, will be provided with adequate facilities.

Today you have all heard that we are in favor of new projects. You also found out there are already four different projects to build vocational schools. For years our country had been building elementary, secondary, pre-university, vocational, and even sports and [words indistinct] schools—all kinds of schools—in the interior. We had also begun to build art schools. However, between 1975 and 1976—and we could say this was due to erroneous and bureaucratic reasons—construction was paralyzed. This affected construction projects considerably.

Today, the construction sector has recovered with full force and capacity. In fact, I would say it has recovered with a greater force than it ever had before. We have had microbrigades in the past, but we never had microbrigade contingents. Nowadays, there are 15,000 workers enlisted in microbrigade contingents. They work with impressive devotion and are making headway very quickly. Interestingly enough, the noncontingency brigades are now beginning to imitate their counterparts by working overtime and trying to achieve great speed and productivity in their construction.

I think the construction field, whose force and capacity was once at a standstill, is making a very strong comeback. We will have the necessary materials and installations we need—even those installations Fernandez and I spoke about. I cannot say this will happen right away. We need to make an effort to unite the three provinces where the situation is said to be the most difficult so they can begin to build their facilities. They will have to plan this construction in such a way that the facilities can begin to be used once 2 or 3 million [currency not specified] have been spent, rather than waiting until the buildings are finished to use them. We will ensure that these educational facilities will be built. I will select two other provinces and speak to their leaders and to the people of these provinces to see what is needed to begin building these facilities.

Therefore, I see that we will provide preschool, elementary, and secondary education with a material basis. Yet this material basis is not the most important element. The schools' personnel, the people who work in these institutions, is the most important element. I feel our prospects are encouraging in this regard. But rather than elaborating on this topic, perhaps it would be better to continue pointing out some of the issues we discussed here, such as the problem of childcare centers and special education schools.

We should take pride in our country's special education program. We will finally be able to meet 100 percent of our needs in this area. I am not aware of any country that has met 100 percent of its special education needs. As for the schools, they will not be located in buildings adapted for this purpose. We will build new specially designed facilities for these schools. We will build all the different kinds of special education schools we need.

I have seen some of the schools, such as the school for the visually impaired. It is marvelous. It is not just a school; it is a hospital. It does not only educate children who have problems; it also solves the children's problems by treating them. I have visited correctional schools. I have also visited schools for the mentally retarded. I truly think that these schools will serve as the primary tool in performing an extraordinarily humane task. Anyone can imagine how much suffering is experienced by a family with a child who has such problems. Anyone can imagine it. Any sensitive person suffers when he sees such cases.

The day I went to the Cuito Cuanavale school, I wondered.... [changes thought] I was later told that across the street there was a school for the mentally retarded. Visiting this kind of school is even more painful than visiting a correctional school. In a correctional school, it is simply a matter of educating the student. I was very interested in finding out how the school influences its students. The teachers there are very intelligent. They are researching what factors—including social factors—may have contributed to the students' hyperactivity and the irritable tempers some of them exhibit.

The boys are given activities there. Some of them are irritable. However, the important thing is that [word indistinct] the school resolves those problems. The day I went to the school [words indistinct] and later passed through another one. I thought about how different their style is from the style of capitalism. What would the destiny be of these children in other countries (other than) in Latin America? What would the destiny be of these children who have a provincial background? What about their psychological development? What would the destiny be of these children who have flunked school? They are there to try to overcome these problems. What would the destiny be of these children, if they could not read or work? What would their destiny be under capitalism? Who knows how much suffering, of all types, they would face? In many cases, if they have limitations or physical—seeing or hearing—handicaps, they end up as beggars. Or if they have [word indistinct] limitations, they end up as beggars or criminals. One can see this very clearly. If a boy does not receive special education consonant with society, he ends up as a criminal. I am convinced of this.

That is why I see another role in the schools, in education, in our education system. Education is meant to eradicate criminality in our society. The eradication of criminality in our society does not depend on repressive factors. Society punishes, and sometimes rewards, criminal and antisocial behavior. I am sure education must fundamentally liberate society from criminality. I am sure we have had an experience that possibly no country in the community has had with these special schools. You can check this out. In any event, these are factors to consider. In some cases, there can be organic, physiological factors. Often a good home does the job of a good school. There are many children from good homes who resolve their problems without the need of a special school. However, nobody can guarantee all the homes can be described as good homes, homes that are prepared to educate children. Therefore, the social reality determines the need to give all those children the treatment they need.

During my meeting with the police at the Interior Ministry, I stated the fight against delinquency begins at infancy. There is reason for us to have a little hope. Our hope is based, not on dreams and illusions, but on research that indicates that all children with those kinds of problems have difficulties and problems at home—cases like the ones mentioned by Fernandez, where either the father or the mother is absent, or where neither of the parents is present. I believe that in a relatively short period of time, we will have more students filling the 80,000 available spaces. Doubtless, we will become the world leader in this field and will accumulate an incredible amount of experience. Our comrade from Pinar del Rio explained she has been to different countries and feels [words indistinct] about what Cuba is achieving, in terms of diagnosis [words indistinct]. These are facts.

What an impressive number of specialists—more than 100—provided by just 6 people: 600 people just (2 for

diagnostics). [sentence as heard] What other society do you know that has such a large number of specialists dedicated to the function of a specific problem such as this. That is, our society [word indistinct] the battle against illiteracy. [Words indistinct] but those schools are very important. There should be a special effort made to train the personnel who will work in those schools. A great effort should be made to build those schools; nothing is achieved without a struggle. You can be certain we will wage a struggle [words indistinct] the greatest number of schools with all the appropriate resources. Let us see if [words indistinct] let us see if we can now begin building the first trade schools. You know that a trade school can spare society many serious problems. What is the fate of those boys? Who knows why they left school, what social factors, what personality factors, or what congenital factors led those boys to leave school and work.

If society does not care for, educate, orient, and train those 20,000 or 30,000 young people, what will become of them? What will be the destiny of those adolescents and youths if we do not seek a solution to the problem through the trade schools in order to reach the level required by our country?

There has been talk about technological schools here. I think the news is very good. The comrade who spoke on behalf of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship School really brought us an optimistic message concerning the substantial progress that has been made in that area over the past 2 years—about what the technological schools are doing, what their projections are, and how ties are established. He confirmed the very good news I had already received about the meeting among all institutions and the spirit of cooperation among them. Two or 3 years ago our young students were almost kicked out of the factories. Because of a mercantilist spirit, a lack of a sense of responsibility, and capitalist behavior, the young technological students—the young university students—were looked upon as a roadblock when they actually constitute, can constitute, and constitute... [Castro repeats himself] extraordinary support for the factories. They can help the factories resolve many problems.

In addition, the future workers of that same factory are going to be trained there. There was no sense in rejecting them or in this lack of cooperation. It was real madness, typical of capitalism. We could not imagine we were in a socialist state. The factories were rejecting the students when their obligation should have been, among other things, to assist in their education within a socialist concept, not a capitalist one.

I have also learned that excellent relations have developed between the technological schools and the institutions through teacher exchanges. Teachers go to the factories, and factory technicians go to the schools. The same thing has happened with the universities, because we had the same problem. University students were rejected. The universities wanted to use the students to

sweep floors. That is what they were supposed to be useful for. Any job in the factory [word indistinct] had to do with the profession of the boy. Educational units have been created in the factories. This movement has emerged at the university, and it is a serious, considerable advance and an improvement over the situation we had some time ago. Those boys are already producing in the workshops of the technological institutes and are helping the new factories.

A consciousness is being created. What the comrade said is very important. He said the fundamental thing was to instill in the youths a workers' conscience, a revolutionary conscience. I asked how many youths we have at the technological schools and was told we have over 200,000. This is a tremendous force of tremendous strength. If we continue on the right path, in the right direction, imagine what we can achieve.

There has been talk here about the schools of exact sciences. This is really a very important step in education. In our country we have talked.... [changes thought] In higher education we have already adopted the system of competition, including tests in almost all careers, even medicine, which adopted this system this year.

This is another important breakthrough. We have tried to find a fair mechanism that will give opportunities not only to students of exact sciences, but to students of rural and urban schools in which there are excellent collectives and extraordinary boys. This year we decided to lower from 60 to 50 percent the part dependent on testing. All this is aimed at establishing a certain degree of equal opportunity for the best students who are not in schools of exact sciences.

There has been talk here about the computer program. A few years ago the universities had no computer training programs. They did not teach the subject. Many engineers and architects who have already graduated are now receiving computer training. So, for example, the Association of Architects.... [changes thought] Computer courses are being given in all associations of architects and engineers and in (?)project enterprises, because one has to see how a computer can boost a project's and an engineer's productivity.

Of course, we had not yet been able to introduce computer training at the universities. During the last few years we have quickly included computer training courses in all university curricula. But, not satisfied with that, we are already including.... [changes thought] We have made considerable progress with computer training not only in schools of exact sciences but in the universities and secondary schools. Soon, we will also have computer training in 100 percent of middle education schools.

We logically began at the teachers' schools. We had to make a great effort to train the personnel who would, in turn, be doing this training. Therefore, these are important steps. We do not want to be too hasty regarding primary

schools. We must see to what extent computer training must be introduced there. I know there are some international programs. We must not be too hasty. We must weigh this possibility well and see to what extent such training helps the students' development. If it is shown that the introduction of computer training in primary schools assists the education and development of the students, we will introduce it also in primary education. Thus, we can review one by one all those fields in which we have made progress over the past 2 years.

The report mentioned many other things, thus constituting a very serious effort. It included every aspect of education and everything associated with improving the education system. The major benefits here are the results of implementing improvement plans or of new ideas in the 1st year. I hope next year we will be able to have good news on the introduction of these innovations in other levels and grades.

We also discussed here ideas about training personnel. It was pleasing to hear the comments about the programs that are being implemented to train primary school teachers—in a broader sense—and secondary school teachers in the field of art education. It is also very encouraging to think we have begun to march on the path to where primary school teacher candidates will begin their studies with a 12th-grade, 12th-grade [repeats himself] education. You will recall that in the early years of the revolution, students entered teaching schools with a 6th-grade education. Later, we moved it up to 9 years of study. It is a colossal breakthrough to say that in a few years, all of them will enter these schools with a 12th-grade education. If the progress reflected in the figure of 10,000 university graduates in primary school education is colossal, the 42,000 additional students who are studying for a degree in primary school education—8,000 of whom are studying full time—also indicate a colossal breakthrough. With that figure we are going to receive a [word indistinct] of appropriately implemented ideas. It is even more incredible that our country's future primary school teachers will receive a university degree in primary school education. When we achieve that, and we will, I would like to know, for the sake of comparison, if any other country will have made a similar achievement. I would like to know if another country can say that its primary school teachers are university graduates; if any other country can say that, soon all those entering the university to get a degree in primary school education will do so with a 12th-grade education. I think this can be said only in very special places. This is the result of our effort and work. We are doing the same in other fields. We began to do that in the field of nursing. The nursing students also once entered with a 9th-grade education. They almost brought their dolls to the hospital. Now they enter with a 12th-grade education. In the future, students entering nursing school will attend the school of medicine. They will also receive university degrees in nursing. All of this represents a considerable breakthrough in the training of teachers.

Also, combining practice with formal education is not new to us. When it became necessary to train teachers in intermediate level education because of the explosion in the student population at that level, we combined study and work. This way, we worked out many things. Today, we now really.... [changes thought] Students enter pedagogical institutes to be trained as primary and secondary teachers and as preuniversity [preuniversitarios] teachers. However, the teaching at the pedagogical schools, which are now pedagogical universities, or university faculties.... [changes thought] This happened gradually; this cannot happen from one year to the next. The combination of study and practice is very important. We talked about that when we reviewed these concepts with the comrades at the Education Ministry, at the Federation of Intermediate Level Students, and the youth groups. We even calculated how many students attend Havana schools. We calculated how many would enter those schools. We calculated how many university students would be helping the teachers or helping the primary school teachers. How many primary schools? If we begin from the 3d year, how many students would there be in a school for 300 students? No, I do not mean how many students but how many university students would be practicing teachers? How many university students would be practicing teaching from the 3d year on? They are a tremendous help to schools. A tremendous help to schools [Castro repeats himself]. The participation of that group of students is a tremendous help to schools; it helps them. The principle of combining studies with practice is important and basic to us. Development programs are a great help, and (?I believe in those programs.) After we have thousands of people with university degrees in primary education, what are we going to do with them? They must continue to study and improve themselves. They must continue their education. In this respect, Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez is right.

He is very strict and demanding at his schools and institutes in Ciego de Avila, Sancti Spiritus, Cienfuegos, Guantanamo—which one am I missing? And Guantanamo, but I already mentioned it! Yes, Las Tunas! I forgot Las Tunas. What would that man [not further identified] from Pinar del Rio had said if we omitted the Isle of Youth. He once thought we had mistakenly erased the Isle of Youth from the map. No one knew what he was complaining about since the largest pedagogical institute was being built on that island. The island was not so forgotten after all. Anyway, we cannot forget about Las Tunas.

I said the future outlook justifies those institutions. I do not think we will ever have a surplus. There will be a surplus of some things. [Words indistinct] while we were talking with the Casa de las Americas directors the other day. They said, yes, they had to give some drama courses with the aid of the university over there in Machurucuto. I said the name Machurucuto sounded familiar. It sounded familiar to me not only because of Che. What little town did we name Machurucuto? We gave the town

of Nina Bonita the name of Machurucuto. It was the first town we named near Havana. I also remember we built a veterinary facility. It had a livestock [words indistinct]. Then, all sorts of possibilities emerged and Machurucuto [words indistinct] a university boarding house. Not Machurucuto, not the town, but the former veterinary facility. It was not really built for that purpose.

However, it is now clear that that building had an important use. The university is putting it to good use; it is sharing it with the Casa de la Americas. [Words indistinct] what were once university buildings are now providing a great service for all sorts of meetings, conferences, and classes. I mean, I do not think we ever have too many buildings. Life shows we can never have too many buildings.

Just look at those branches [filiales]. I remember when I argued with Fernandez about the branches. At first it was said that [words indistinct] would be branches, and it had only been 2 or 3 years when they said they needed a huge pedagogical institute. He says they are all full, and that is true; all of the installations are full. We have certainly built a lot of schools, but they are not enough.

I would say that right now Havana needs more schools. Schools are needed for the students who are completing their military service. I have never seen too many schools or installations. That is why I believe there could be certain things that may be more urgent than others. That is what happened to the medical schools. It took too long to build them, and now that they are being built we are going to start restricting entry to medical school.

Regardless of how ambitious our health plans are, in the year 2000 we are going to have more doctors than needed. However, we must continue with improvement courses, with studies. We have tens of thousands of university graduates, and I believe the pedagogical institutes are good bases for this. I think we must have these institutes in every province.

There are many other ideas, and we have mentioned these. Now we have a reserve, and we have already mentioned this. Dreams have come true. Today, we have a reserve of 18,000 teachers. That is the reason why there are 8,000 teachers going full time to the university to earn bachelors' degrees. That is why there are thousands of teachers studying physics, art, or mathematics to become professors of physics and mathematics; studying to become art professors. I believe that our reserves of teachers and professors should continue growing. We should have a reserve of 40,000 in the future. That would allow us to have a sabbatical year after all of them have earned their bachelors' degrees by going to the university full time. When all of those who are now in the university have graduated, then we can do these things. The sabbatical year will be a reality, and it will be the result of rationality. Socialism is a society that is able to organize things in a rational manner, where there is not excessive bureaucracy, where everyone is well trained, where

everyone works on one thing or another. Socialism is a society that produces and distributes its production among all. It is a society that has a minimum of bureaucracy and unnecessary jobs, and produces many necessary things. For example, there is the family doctor. What is better? To have 20,000 or 40,000 persons in useless activities, such as in the capitalist world, where one does not even know how many people are engaged in useless activities? In socialism this also happens, but over there it happens for one reason, and over here for another reason. In socialism, this happens out of ineptitude, paternalism, and a lack of imagination on the part of the leaders. However, instead of those 40,000 being unemployed or being included on padded payrolls, these people could be trained to become doctors or teachers or family doctors.

These are the examples I like to mention, because it is evidence of what can be done through the rationality of socialism. After all, those unemployed people always find someone who will support them when they need to eat, dress, travel. Instead of being unemployed, those people could become doctors or nurses in the community—that would be beautiful. Or they could be working in a child care center, a school, or a factory.

Therefore, it is not a dream when I talk about a sabbatical year in the future for doctors, professors, and teachers. I hope we can give a sabbatical year to all university graduates. Yes, it is perfectly possible if society is well organized, if there is high productivity. High productivity is achieved through techniques and knowledge, with machinery, and even with robots. Our country already has a center for the development of robots. See how advanced we are? We still have some surplus [word indistinct] in some places. This is no dream, and it is not too far away. Perhaps, we might begin with the teachers, because there is where we have the largest reserve. Doctors will have to wait longer, or perhaps the engineers, the architects, the economists. They must first have a reserve, so they can have their year of study. The truth is that in this modern world, one cannot stop studying. It is great that after 7 years a person will have a full year to study.

Therefore, all of these institutions are going to be very useful and necessary. We have 270,000 professors and teachers today; we would only need 300,000. If we always had 300,000 professors and teachers, and if 40,000 of them would be in the reserves, we would always have 40,000 teachers in improvement programs. The evidence is so great that I am the one looking for the arguments so that we will definitely construct those buildings. We have 40,000 teachers in improvement programs. If we improve the system, if we manage to carry out this program, we will carry out these ideas, which are not dreams.

In other times these were dreams, but not today. Now these are revolutionary and socialist possibilities. I therefore believe that our country's educational system has a

brilliant future. True, the educational system had problems. We rested somewhat on our laurels; we fell into a rut. We cannot say that this only happened to the educational system. I regret to have to say that the entire country fell into a rut—some sectors more than others. Even the health system fell into a rut. I met with hospital medical directors here in the capital because our health services were also falling into a rut—everything was falling into a rut.

We had much success, but we rested on our laurels. Honestly speaking, we woke up and we were determined to change. We went through difficult times while trying to find the correct solution to our problems. We had problems with our graduating classes; we either had too many students graduating or too few, an imbalance that threatened to overload some schools. We thought hard, reasoned, and analyzed. Formulas were sought that would not, under any circumstances, sacrifice quality. I believe we are on the right track now.

I believe these last 2 years have been fruitful. I believe this seminar has been truly historic due to all the things analyzed and achieved, thanks to the country's support. Of course, when we speak of special schools, these did not depend on the educational sector; instead they depended on the support the country could give to these institutions. Childcare centers did not depend on what the teachers needed; instead they depended on the support the country was able to give them. Likewise, considerable assistance has been given for many things.

Of course, we have again begun to analyze this; these things are being debated. They have even been debated in this seminar. This seminar is really more like a congress. I have thought about how often these seminars should be held. We used to hold these seminars once a year. I believe it would be better if we held these seminars every 2 years. This would allow more time to draft plans and programs and to put policies into effect. We should therefore hold our next seminar in 1991. This is very good, and we shall then see how much we have advanced in these 2 years and how we should continue consolidating these policies. We cannot afford to rest on our laurels again. The country cannot and the education sector can even less afford to do so.

I get the impression that we are developing valuable ideas in this field, that we are profiting from important experiences, that we have personnel who are more and more experienced, capable, and responsible. Many valuable experiences have been given to us through all these years. I believe that we are only just developing our experience. We have become more mature. The revolution was precocious in educational matters and has brought many new things.

The important thing is the confidence we have in our ability to develop our experiences and ideas. I really do believe we are accumulating fabulous experiences in all

fields. We are headed toward the development of an exceptional educational system. It is up to us, and I believe our experience is going to be very useful to other people.

It would not be an exaggeration to talk of an educational power; if we want to, we could become an educational power. We have all the right conditions. It does not matter that there are still some limitations or that we may still lack some laboratories to complete the network. It does not matter we may still lack some supplies and certain resources. We shall obtain them eventually. There will come a day when we shall have them all if we are constant and if we persevere. There will come a day when we shall have laboratories everywhere and all the necessary supplies and resources—just as the day will come when we shall have all the necessary classrooms.

I have no doubt that we shall have—in the not-too-distant future—all the necessary special schools and vocational and trade schools. I am very aware of the things we are still lacking. Of course, we are lacking much less than what we lacked at the beginning, when we lacked everything. We did not even have enough teachers—10,000 jobless teachers [as heard], many of whom were not prepared to go to rural areas or the mountains. Today, we can say we almost have everything—although we still lack certain things—but we shall have them because we now know how to make them. We learn more and more each day how to make things. It is really up to us to convert Cuba into an educational power. We cannot stop for a second. We cannot be complacent for an instant with what we have—this is the only way to become an educational power. We should never feel satisfied over the quality of our work. In other words, we must be conscious of the idea to constantly improve our system.

I believe in our people's qualities, in our people's excellent moral and human qualities. I know that in the education branch one can find the best of our people, and I know we have something essential—the human factor. We also have most of the material resources, and we shall obtain in the future what we do not have now. I truly believe our revolution, our education is headed toward very high achievements. Everything depends on education. I said earlier that even respect of laws depends on education; even the victory over crime depends on education. Everything has depended on education all these years; in the future, we shall depend more and more on education.

How pleasant is it to know we have hundreds of thousands of university graduates. We have nearly 300,000 teachers and professors, and we have several thousand students studying for these careers. How pleasant it is to think of the thousands and thousands of engineers we have in the factories, in the fields, the thousands of doctors and higher-level specialized doctors we have in our hospitals. How pleasant this is. It is pleasant to recall that at one time only about 500 students entered medical school. There were not even enough high school graduates, and the few we had, we had to spread among

various careers. Today, 5,500 or 6,000 students enter medical school—10 times the number that entered school during the first few years of the revolution. All this is the result of the struggle we all started during the revolution's 1st month. The moment 10,000 school rooms were built or 10,000 teacher vacancies became available was the moment the literacy campaign started. I believe this gives some idea of the importance our revolution gives to education. Nothing else could have been achieved without education. It is the cornerstone of our future, development, and progress.

What can I say after this seminar? You have mentioned with lots of spirit that you will not let the revolution down. You have said you feel able to comply with the role the revolution requires from you, especially that very delicate responsibility of molding the soul of our children, our revolution, and our [words indistinct]—the soul of this country's citizens—in that noble and delicate task of molding consciences, forging hearts and minds strong and firm enough to resist this great challenge by the empire, difficult moments, and aggressions of any sort, and win this great ideological battle being waged in today's world. You feel you are able to forge this patriotic awareness and revolutionary spirit; many of you have said this. I repeat: We trust you. We are completely sure all of you will be able to fulfill this task, this important, decisive, and historic role that will guarantee the future of our people, the solidity and invincibility of the revolution.

Fatherland or death, we will win! [applause]

U.S. Suspected of Violating UNHRC Agreements
FL0303191789 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Telephone report by Orlando Contreras, special correspondent to Geneva]

[Text] A serious incident occurred this afternoon here at the UN Human Rights Commission [UNHRC]. According to information I received from Third World delegates, but not from Latin America, when a Latin American draft resolution was presented to the UNHRC Secretariat, Mr (John Pace) said to the delegate who gave him the Latin American draft resolution that, 20 minutes earlier, he had received a U.S. draft resolution on subject 11-B—in other words the one that deals with Cuba.

According to these sources, who obviously requested their anonymity, if what Mr (Pace) said is true, the U.S. violated a formal agreement, an agreement of honor, that had been established with the Latin Americans, and which stated that it would not present any draft resolutions until the negotiations that were being held between the western and Latin American countries were over. The other possibility is that Mr (Pace), a citizen of Malta and official of the UNHRC Secretariat, acted in an improper manner while he waited for the U.S. draft resolution, which had not arrived yet. According to the sources, Mr (Pace) was not

able to show the document or its registration into the secretariat when the delegate asked for it. The sources said to this special correspondent that, according to their information, Mr (Pace) did not hide his preference for the western group.

As can be seen, the situation is serious. If the secretariat first accepted the U.S. draft resolution, this means it must be debated and voted on before the Latin American draft resolution, according to the regulations. In other words, double action would now be necessary in order to defeat the anti-Cuban draft resolution whose content is unknown.

Armando Valladares, head of the U.S. delegation and former Batista policeman, has reiterated that his government's position is that the UNHRC mandate on Cuba be maintained. This is inappropriate and does not take into consideration the substantive elements of the report of the group that went to Cuba last September, which did not prove any violations of human rights in our country.

Vice Foreign Minister Reacts

FL0403012589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 0021 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Telephone interview with Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri by special correspondent to Geneva Orlando Contreras during "Exclusivo" program hosted by Daniel Torres—live]

[Text] [Contreras] Mr Vice Foreign Minister, this afternoon, a serious incident has occurred here at the UN Human Rights Commission [UNHRC] which our country already knows about.

We would like you tell us what happened.

[Roa] As you probably already know, for the past few days, informal talks have been held between a group of Latin American countries and representatives from the European Economic Community [EEC]. When the talks began, Cuba was asked, by some of the EEC countries, to agree not to present a unilateral resolution plan on subject 11-B, which refers to the report by the human rights commission that went to Cuba. In other words, they were asking us not to present a unilateral resolution report while the talks lasted. We were guaranteed by the EEC countries that the United States had also agreed not to present a unilateral proposal on the same subject while the talks lasted.

This morning the group of Latin American countries, which is called GRULA and of which Cuba is a member, met to draft a text which would be presented this afternoon to the EEC countries, the ones with whom the Latin American countries were holding informal talks. That text was then presented to the EEC countries. The meeting was supposed to start at 1530 Geneva time but actually began at 1550 Geneva time. The meeting ended at 1630 or 1635 Geneva time without having reached an

agreement. In other words, a consensus was not reached. Some of the West European countries did not accept the Latin American text as a basis for the consensus.

Once the meeting ended without a consensus, the Latin American party, in this case the Cubans, as well as the Europeans could then consider themselves free of the agreement that had been previously reached. This was, as I said at the beginning, an informal agreement, which was based on a reciprocal agreement that was accepted, in this case, by Cuba on the one hand and, allegedly, the United States on the other. It was guaranteed by the EEC that neither party would present a unilateral resolution plan. This was an ethical agreement, a gentleman's agreement.

When the meeting ended at 1630 or 1635, the Latin American countries—Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Panama—had a text, a project, on subject 11-B. It was the text drafted by the Latin American countries this morning and is the one that was presented to the Europeans. When the Latin Americans went to the UNHRC to present it, they were told by the secretariat of the commission, Mr (John Pace), that he already had the United States' proposal which had been turned in at 1530. This is to say that it was turned in 20 minutes before the meeting between the EEC and the Latin American countries began. When the meeting ended at 1630 without having reached a consensus, it had been 1 hour since the United States had presented their text to the secretariat.

The worst thing is not that the United States did this, because we know the United States has no credibility, by this means that they cannot be believed. If this agreement had been brought up by the United States, we would not have believed it and would not have accepted it. However, since it was presented to Cuba by the EEC, we accepted that gentleman's agreement. The worst thing of the matter is that two EEC countries—Great Britain and the Netherlands—were coauthors of the U.S. proposal turned in at 1530 while the present president of the EEC, which is Spain, was seated at the negotiating table with the Latin American countries and working, in good faith, on a text. This means that they not only betrayed the agreement with Cuba, they also betrayed the president of the EEC, as well as the other EEC members who believed there was a gentleman's agreement which was broken not only by the United States but by their British and Netherlands allies as well.

This proves that the United States, as we have been saying since 1987, does not only act in bad faith, but that this is all part of a political vendetta against the Cuban Revolution.

[Contreras] Well, there has been a trust violation, as well as a violation of morals and ethics. What will happen now that this has happened in the bosom of the UNHRC?

Obviously there are two resolution drafts on the table. According to information given by the UNHRC's spokesman, the drafts relative to subject 11-B, which is the one we are concerned with, will be reviewed next Wednesday, 8 March.

Further on U.S. 'Trick'

FL0403193089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish
1800 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Report by special correspondent Pedro Martinez Pirez from Geneva—recorded]

[Text] The 45th session of the UN Human Rights Commission began its last weekend recess after yesterday's hectic and biased session in which the United States carried out its threats against Cuba and betrayed the trust of some of its allies. Only 5 working days are left before this year's meeting comes to an end. It can be predicted that daily evening sessions will have to be held because of the number of pending subjects, the speakers who want to participate, and the basic matters that are being presented. Pressures and lobbying will be very intense.

The upcoming arrival of General Vernon Walters, still U.S. ambassador to the United Nations although he has already been appointed diplomat to Bonn, is a clear signal of the U.S. intentions in the commission meeting's last week. The former CIA director [title as heard] is obviously coming to try to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for slanderer Armando Valladares at a time when there is uneasiness among the Western group and the war declared on Cuba for the 3d consecutive year has caused deep displeasure among Latin American, African, and Asian countries.

The trick pulled yesterday by the U.S. delegation of submitting its anti-Cuban draft to the secretariat without waiting for the results of the talks between Latin Americans and Europeans is not only an arrogant or openly unfriendly act but it is, above all, an action that is clearly aimed at forcing the remaining 42 members of the commission to vote first for the Yankee document. With it, Washington can put more pressure on those nations. In this way, the United States secures at least two votes: one on its draft and the other one submitted by Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Panama. That is, Washington would have to be defeated twice so that, in Cuba's case, international justice can prevail.

There is an element that needs to be taken into account at the bottom of the cheating action of the United States. Washington knew that no agreement was going to be reached between Latin America and the chairman of the EEC group or the United States knew the limits of the negotiation and wanted to get a step ahead any Latin American initiative, which is the same thing. For this, it got the UK—its usual unconditional ally—and the Netherlands to join in the project to try to dismiss the fact that this was an absolutely unilateral action.

Naturally, the one that ended up in the worst position was Spain, which is chairing the EEC during this session. Not only Spain should be offended by the betraying action of strength of the United States but also France, since this country showed a balanced and independent position during the debate on Cuba. Although it is true that France suggested that the study of the human rights situation in our country should continue, it clearly stated that any formula reached should count with Cuba's approval.

Underwater Cable To U.S. Operational in Apr

FL0303125589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] A new underwater cable for telephone communications between Cuba and the United States will be operational next April. This will permit an increase in the quality of service and the number of daily calls. Initially, 104 simultaneous calls will be possible, and gradually the number of calls will increase to its maximum capacity of 138 channels [as heard].

GDR Official Arrives for Cooperation Meeting

FL0103152989 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Horst Soelle, deputy chairman [of the Council of Ministers] of the GDR, has arrived in Cuba heading a delegation from his country. The GDR leader was received by his Cuban counterpart, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez. Soelle will attend the 15th Session of the Joint Cuba-GDR Cooperation Commission.

Dominican Republic

Alvarez Bogaert Noted To Replace Balaguer

FL0403132089 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Reformist leader Clotildo Polanco has said that only Lic Fernando Alvarez Bogaert will be able to replace Balaguer in his leadership in the Social Christian Reformist Party [PRSC]. Polanco, who is vice president of the Reformist Directorate in Santiago, asserted that only Alvarez Bogaert has enough charisma to replace President Balaguer's leadership in the ranks of the PRSC.

Polanco said that, for now, only Balaguer can compete with his own figure and leadership. Polanco added that Lic Alvarez Bogaert is the winning card for the 1990 general elections. Likewise, the Reformist leader said Balaguer will have to be joined by Alvarez Bogaert in the Reformist Party ballot for next year's general elections. He said this is a reality of analysis which has been assimilated very well by members and leaders of the PRSC in the entire country.

Polanco insisted that if Balaguer is not a presidential candidate, it will be Fernando Alvarez Bogaert's turn to be the lone leader emerging from the ranks of the PRSC.

Teachers Strike To End 'Within Next Few Hours'
*FL0303135589 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network
in Spanish 1118 GMT 3 Mar 89*

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Dominican Association of Teachers, ADP, could end its 3-week public school strike within the next few hours. This would be the positive result of the preliminary agreements reached last night between the trade union and the government.

At the conclusion of a meeting with Eng Guillermo Caram, technical secretary of the presidency, and Pedro Pichardo, education secretary, ADP Secretary General Rafael Santos announced the creation of a joint commission to study proposals that will bring an end to the conflict. Santos said that last night's meeting at the National Palace heavily revolved around the search for a solution to the strike which involves more than 35,000 teachers and affects the education of 1.5 million students.

[Santos] "I should inform the country that we have established a point of contact that is very encouraging for the teachers, as well as for the official government delegation represented by the technical secretary, Eng Guillermo Caram, and by the secretary of state for education, Lic Pedro Pichardo.

"In conclusion, we have agreed on the creation of a joint technical commission comprised of representatives from the Education Secretariat, the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency, and the ADP to assess a number of proposals that could be managed by the Executive Branch, as well as by the congress. This meets with the approval of the president and the ADP committee itself.

"In this sense, we have made our first working (?agreement) which will be made public at the appropriate time tonight, as well as early tomorrow morning. Hopefully, tomorrow afternoon we will be able to announce some kind of positive solution to the conflict."

Upon stressing the outcome of last night's meeting with government representatives, which was also attended by ADP leaders (Micano Paredes) and (Pedro Cabral), Santos said:

"Of course none of us came here to waste our time. We are working on satisfying the demands, not of the ADP, but the accumulated demands of Dominican education which led to the strike. That is why we will also discuss, if necessary, some kind of suspension of the strike and what steps to take on Monday as a result of this process which has so successfully taken place. God willing, tomorrow we may be able to announce some kind of lifting of the strike."

Secretaries on Teachers' Demands
*FL0303164989 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network
in Spanish 1132 GMT 3 Mar 89*

[Text] Eng Guillermo Caram, technical secretary of the Presidency, last night said that the government is seeking funds from financial sources to improve teachers' salaries. Caram said that various alternatives have been examined in response to the teachers' demands. He added that it is necessary to (?reach a decision) with President Joaquin Balaguer.

The government official spoke moments after the conclusion of a meeting with the leaders of the Dominican Association of Teachers [ADP], which was headed by Rafael Santos, (Alfredo Cabral), and (Melano Paredes).

Caram said that the impression formed at the meeting is that there are a number of concerns regarding the problems of Dominican education. He said that they discussed the problems that affect the education of those sectors that cannot pay for primary and secondary school education.

For his part, Education Secretary Lic Pedro Pichardo said that the proposal presented at the meeting by the Dominican Association of teachers will be discussed and considered by a commission which will work with them. Pichardo said that after last night's meeting at the National Palace, there is now a positive attitude that indicates the problems that caused the teachers strike are being overcome. The education secretary added that they are also resolving the problem of the teachers' checks. Pichardo said that if it is necessary to work on the matter of paying salaries tomorrow, Saturday, it will be done in the interest of satisfying the teachers' demands.

ADP Secretary General Rafael Santos said that the lifting of the national teachers' strike could be announced tomorrow. Santos said that the meeting was satisfactory and hopeful in resolving the problem that involves the nation's teachers.

Actions To Remove Judge From Jorge Blanco Case
*FL0303151589 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network
in Spanish 1220 GMT 2 Mar 89*

[Text] Jorge Blanco's attorneys warn that they will do everything humanly possible to ensure that Judge Juan Maria Severino does not preside over the trial. Virgilio Bello Rosa believes that the enemies of the former head of state are using the judge as an instrument. Dr Bello Rosa warned that the lawyers of former President Salvador Jorge Blanco will do everything humanly possible to prevent Judge Severino from trying their defendant. Bello Rosa also said that the judge should not have waited for the national district attorney, Dr Alexis Joaquin Castillo, to ask him to disqualify himself based on a plea denying the court's jurisdiction filed by the lawyers of the former leader. He should have done so out of embarrassment. Severino, himself, should have said that he would not preside over that trial.

[Begin Bello Rosa recording] Judge Severino should not have waited for the district attorney to propose this measure. Instead, he should disqualify himself. Not only should he disqualify himself, but the mere fact that Dr Jorge Blanco doubted him as an impartial judge would lead any judge in this country, and in any other country, to leave the matter alone. Why would a judge pass judgment on a person who does not trust him, on a person with whom he has had differences for over 20 years, on a person whom he wants to condemn as he has shown to the courts and to the national public, because Salvador Jorge Blanco is his enemy? [end recording]

The well-known lawyer and university professor made his statements regarding the incident during an interview that took place at the Palace of Justice when Jorge Blanco and other defendants were taken there. Former President Salvador Jorge Blanco, as well as businessmen Juan Tomas Pena Valentin and (Daniel Almonte), were driven to the Palace of Justice in Ciudad Nueva despite the plea for another criminal court to hear the case, aside from the seventh, requested by the lawyers of the former head of state. Dr Bello Rosa affirmed that the best proof that Judge Severino of the Seventh Criminal Court does not have the slightest idea that what the laws are can be proven by the fact that despite the plea, the judge had planned to preside over the trial yesterday morning.

[Begin Bello Rosa recording] The man is being used by the enemies of Salvador. Not only does he hold his personal grudges against Salvador, but they are being nurtured by the grudge's of Salvador's enemies in an attempt, at any cost, to pass judgment on him. There are many judges in the Dominican Republic. Salvador does not have a favorite judge. However, I repeat, we will do everything humanly possible, always within the legal scope, to ensure that Severino does not preside over this trial. Anyone else can receive orders. [sentence as heard] However, I think the way that Severino receives orders, in addition to the grudge he holds against Dr Salvador Jorge Blanco, makes it impossible for this man, in a civilized country, to be able to judge a defendant—in this case Dr Salvador Jorge Blanco. [end recording]

Armed Forces Note Improved Smuggling Methods
FL0103150589 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network
in Spanish 1128 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The constant tricks used by smugglers have required the institutes of the Armed Forces to maintain an offensive that should be renewed periodically. The military organization held a demonstration for the press at their headquarters showing the improved methods that smugglers have been using to avoid customs taxes via air, sea, and land.

It was reported that the smugglers have used such items as video cassettes to introduce guns that are wrapped in rubber and aluminum foil. At least four people have been detained in relation to this type of smuggling. [passage omitted]

Haiti

Avril, Section Chiefs Meet at National Palace
FL0303183089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in French 1800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The Salle des Bustes of the National Palace was the scene of an unprecedented meeting held at approximately 1100 yesterday between a Haitian chief of state and the representatives of the forces of order in the provinces and hinterlands. According to certain Port-au-Prince radio and television stations, numerous complaints have been made by peasants from various provinces and communal sections of Haiti regarding rural police agents and section chiefs for some time now. In light of this, General Prosper Avril, president of the military government, decided to assemble the section chiefs yesterday morning.

It is to be noted that he assembled them in the presence of their respective immediate hierarchical superiors—that is, the commanding officers of the military departments, districts, and subdistricts of the nation's nine geographical departments. He did this to remind them of their role and their mission as full members of the Haitian Armed Forces, FADH, and in order to redefine for them the line his government intends to follow, within the framework of its ambition to lay the foundations of democracy in Haiti once and for all by achieving the nation's unity. The general said this is a determining factor in Haiti's long dreamed of and necessary rehabilitation.

This is the angle from which the general/president was to embark upon the dialogue with the 562 rural police agents and section chiefs he summoned for that purpose. That is, to hear their explanations for this growing wave of complaints against them which he said had been noticed for some time now.

President Avril told them: You are the issue of the entrails of the nation, the spinal column of the Army, the Army's corollaries and direct representatives in the communal sections close to towns as well as those located deep in the hinterlands. The institution called Rural Police, of which you are the members, must not disappear. Then, citing for these people certain articles dealing with internal regulations of the Armed Forces, General Avril examined with them the climax of this work session. (?A report/balance sheet), instructions, and recommendations in close correlation with the line traced for them by the Haitian Army aimed at allowing them to fulfill their mission properly, safe from any action that might bring dishonor upon them.

Along this line of thought, the president did, indeed, remind them of the main orders dictated to them by their mission. Among them are: to protect the lives and property of the peasants, avoid abuses, maintain public order and peace in all communal sections, provide security for everyone in the section, curb disorder and truancy, provide aid and assistance to all organizations

authorized to operate throughout Haiti, and, lastly, to help enforce justice and to sort of work with members of the Casecs [Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections] with a view to the progress of the nation.

The general/president added: This is the basic message I wanted to get across to you.

However, President Avril was not going to close the chapter before allowing them to talk, (?or) reminding all these police agents of the effect of the nation's laws and of what the FADH regulations forbid them to do. For example, a section chief must not usurp the duties of the area's justice of the peace. Each person has his particular role in a given society. If the section chief cannot conciliate the interests of peasants in conflict, or reconcile the peasants, the rural police agent should send the case to court. Also, a section chief is not to collect taxes or fines. He must not take bribes either. Lastly, he must not—not upon any pretext—mistreat the peasants or try to exploit their ignorance.

Democratic Bloc To Discuss Electoral Decree
FL0203200489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] A Democratic Bloc has been formed by political parties and organizations—such as PAIN [National Agricultural and Industrial Party], PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party], UPD [Union of Democratic Patriots], Jean-Jacques Dessalines Nationalist Sector, PNDPH [National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti], PLH [Haitian Liberation Party], Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces, and RH [not further identified].

These organizations and parties, which have come together in a democratic bloc, announce a meeting tomorrow, 2 March, at the Oloffson Hotel to discuss and reach a common position toward the electoral decree of last 23 February.

These organizations and political parties intend to declare the decree unconstitutional.

Opposition Divided Over Decree
FL0303144889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Political leaders are divided over the electoral decree. Satisfaction, anxiety, and distrust are the feelings prevailing among Haitian political leaders following the publication on 23 February of the decree creating the CEP [Provisional/Permanent Election Council].

Several leaders have come out in favor of dialogue with the Avril government. Others are demanding that Avril resign. Clarens and Rothschild [Metropole reporters] present both sides' positions.

[Clarens] Serger Gilles is convinced that the national forum and the electoral decree constitute a democratic sector victory. [passage omitted]

Serges Gilles identifies the enemies of dialogue as being two groups on the current political scene that have a circular way of thinking. They leave point A in order to end up at point A. According to Gilles, this is the political philosophy of the Duvalierists, who want to take back power at any price. Gilles says that, unfortunately, this circular way of thinking is also that of some of the leftist movements, who are nostalgic for the Uproot-Your-Cassava-Plants formula. [passage omitted]

[Rothschild] This appeal for dialogue by Serger Gilles of Panpra [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] does not seem to be reaching the other sector of the opposition. Louis Dejoie II, president of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party [PAIN], feels that General Prosper Avril has no intention whatsoever of organizing serious elections in Haiti. Analyzing the 23 February decree, the PAIN wonders how a provisional de facto government, outside of a constitutional framework, can want to give the nation a permanent institution. Although this decree draws its inspiration from the Constitution of 1987, it adds certain things and modifies others. Louis Dejoie wonders what right does the current government have to decide constitutional things. He also wonders about the future of Article 291 of the Constitution, which sanctions the Duvalierists, disqualifying them from running for any office for 10 years.

The PAIN leader feels the forum participants made no reference whatsoever to the Constitution. Dejoie condemns these leaders for what he calls fake parties and advocates a return to the Constitution of 1987. [passage omitted]

Eight political parties—including Dejoie's—which boycotted the government forum held at the Legislative Palace from 9-17 February, are going to meet today in an assembly. The PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party], PAIN, UPD [Union of Democratic Patriots], PNDPH [National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti], PLH [Haitian Liberation Party], RH [expansion unknown], Jean-Jacques Dessalines Nationalist Sector, and Coordinating Committee of the Democratic Forces are meeting today in a broad assembly in order to hold discussions and arrive at a common position on the unconstitutionality of the 23 February decree creating the CEP.

The leaders of these political organizations say they are aware of the fact that, at present, the nation's decent forces must group together and formulate a plan for joint action with a view to neutralizing the obscurantist forces that are conspiring against national sovereignty.

This forum is open to any democratic organizations that did not participate in what the bloc calls the trap forum of Prosper Avril's government and to the associations that are struggling to have the Constitution of 1987 maintained and applied.

[Announcer] Indeed, these parties and organizations have gathered into what they call the Democratic Bloc and have been meeting since this morning at the Oloffson Hotel with a view to adopting a common position in response to the electoral decree which they deem unconstitutional. Mobile Unit 20 is going to tell us about it.

[Unidentified reporter from the Oloffson Hotel] Thank you, Ketly. The meeting started an hour ago. [passage omitted]

We point out that there are also other political leaders present at the Oloffson. We see Hubert de Ronceray, the representative of the MDN, Mobilization for National Development. This party did not participate in the government forum. We also see representatives of Konakom, National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements. There is also a representative of the PUCH [Unified Party of Haitian Communists], whose name is [Joseph Voisin] and who is here as an observer. As you know, the PUCH did participate in the 9 February forum. [passage omitted]

We must also point out that this forum is not very open to the press, in that it is forbidden to tape-record here at the Oloffson. [passage omitted]

A few minutes ago, the PUCH representative was given the floor. He talked about the urgent need for a consensus and concerted action in order to solve the country's problems. Also, he again talked about forming a government of national coalition. This, a political theme, is much in fashion these days and very dear to the Haitian communists. [passage omitted]

MIDH's Bazin Comments on Forum, CEP
FL0203190589 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1400 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpts] There is supposed to be reaction from the Haitian political class after the issuing by the military government of the decree creating the Permanent Election Council [CEP] that will be in charge of organizing elections throughout Haiti. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording of Marc Bazin, leader of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, MIDH] I think that the forum sets a good example. [passage omitted] One of the things we had done, for example, was to suggest that a forum not be a place where decisions are made. This is of capital importance. We said that a forum was a place for discussing things and making suggestions and recommendations. And we did make recommendations, and the government did follow them. Thus, not only did we take a first step regarding

substance but also, the fact that the decree was issued within the deadline—not late—well, we consider this an obvious sign of goodwill and of a desire to make progress. [passage omitted]

For the time being, we have a few due dates awaiting us. The first one is for the formation of the election council itself. I would like, for example, to see the government write to the institutions stipulated in Article 289 [of the Constitution of 1987] to not only ask them to present candidates but also give them a certain number of guarantees of security for themselves as individuals, for their property, for their families, and for the institution itself—so that everyone will feel at ease, feel that he is entering a game that is going to be played out in a spirit of cooperation.

Second, I would like to see the government present its candidate right away, to show its goodwill—because, as you will recall, the last time the CNG [National Government Council] presented its candidate last. [Words indistinct] Thus, to show the difference, I would like for the government to present its candidate right away. [end recording] [passage omitted]

PNDPH Issues Press Release on Forum
FL0303191589 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1400 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] According to the PNDPH [National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti], it is demagogic to refer to the spirit of a constitution that is not even in effect. Any government with the intention of organizing unfettered and honest elections must obey the transitory dispositions in the Constitution of 1987, the letter of which the members of the Haitian Armed Forces swore to respect.

The PNDPH wonders if they [not further identified] have ever examined their consciences.

Despite the blood that was shed on 29 November 1987 for honest elections under the banner of the Constitution of 1987, which is the expression of the will of the people, and under Article 16 of the 23 February 1989 decree on the formation of the Permanent Election Council, the participants in the forum gave all the people who have been effecting massacres an opportunity to participate in coming elections in Haiti. [passage omitted]

That is what PNDPH Secretary General Turneb Delpe said in a press release dated 1 March 1989.

RDC's Volel Asks Government To Resign
FL0303212389 Port-au-Prince Radio Network
in Creole 1400 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] RDC [Christian Democratic Assembly] leader Eddy Volel held a news conference at CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers] headquarters on Rue des Casernes on Thursday 2 March at 1100.

Several subjects were discussed at the conference, such as the climate of insecurity, the anxiety of everyone living in Haiti, the high cost of living, etc.

Mr Volel says he sees that the government has formed a commission for Haitians living overseas in order to hold elections in foreign countries. He would rather see the government ask for all the political leaders in exile to return to Haiti. Volel cited Bernard Sansaricq as an example. [passage omitted]

Volel says that there should be a common front to make the government respect human rights in Haiti and the rights of Haitians living abroad. [passage omitted] Let's listen to an excerpt from the news conference.

[Begin Volel recording] Why don't all those people who call themselves leaders, all the traditional politicians, all those men who were in the habit of applauding Namphy and Prosper Avril and Francois Duvalier, repent before the Haitian people and form a unitarian bloc to present an alternative that will finally give the nation a chance to (?embark) upon the road to democracy?

We see that these men, instead of concerning themselves with the desiderata of the Haitian people, of trying to hear what the Haitian people are saying, of seeking to understand the Haitian people's real problems, would rather run around seeking to get people to call them leaders, to become candidates, to see what will make them popular so that they can get more votes and, at the same time, see how they can get Prosper Avril to see them, so that, if there are elections, rigged elections will at least be guaranteed, so they can try to find a place for themselves.

They can forget it! Prosper Avril is not going to rig elections for anybody just as no general in Haiti has ever rigged an election for anybody! If Prosper Avril is going to rig an election, he is going to do so for himself. If power is too hot and he cannot keep it for himself, he will do like all the other generals have always done, like Henri Namphy—the most recent example—did. He will take the power and give it to one of his flunkies. He will turn the government over to a puppet, and after 4, 5, or 6 months he will take the government back from the puppet. [end recording]

Regarding the 9-17 February forum, Eddy Volel said that he did not participate in that forum because he did not want to sit down around a table with the Duvalierists because he wanted to respect Article 291 of the Constitution of 1987. [passage omitted]

Several other topics were discussed at the news conference, such as the arrest of the murderers responsible for the massacres of Jean-Rabel, Labadie, etc, as well as the heavy pressure being applied against the Papaye Peasants Movement, MPP.

For all these reasons, Volel is asking that the government resign. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Investigates MPP Accusations
*FL0303221589 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 3 Mar 89*

[Excerpts] An Interior Ministry delegation visited Hinche yesterday to investigate the accusations made by MPP [Papaye Peasants Movement] coordinator Chavannes Jean-Baptiste against certain officials in the upper central plateau. Jean-Baptiste recently denounced, during a press conference, the existence of a group that wants to kill him.

Here is Alex Joseph's report.

[Joseph, in Creole] (?The delegation) was headed by lawyer Pierre Romain Chery, an assistant (?delegation leader), and Gustave Compere, inspector for prefectural and communal affairs.

The purpose of the delegation's visit was to investigate the statements made by MPP leader Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, an agronomist, at a news conference in Port-au-Prince.

Jean-Baptiste had denounced that there was a plot prepared to destroy the MPP and, more precisely, himself, Chavannes, as founder of the movement. Jean-Baptiste had pointed the finger at prefect (Feresse Alexis), who it seems had formed a 23-man group of thugs [san maman] with the objective of eliminating certain popular organizations in the upper central plateau.

The members of the delegation discussed Jean-Baptiste's statements with several Hinche citizens. They even went to Papaye to meet with several MPP leaders in order to be really clear in their minds regarding the group of thugs.

We point out that the making public of Minister Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre's document has given rise to much division among the people of Hinche, where everyone is now afraid to talk to everyone else. There are rumors constantly circulating about who is in the 23-man group of thugs who are paid some \$100 per month.

(Arnel Lapierre), one of the persons accused by these rumors, admitted to colleagues in an interview that such a group really has been founded. However, he says his name was put on the list without his knowledge. He denounces maneuvers effected by certain representatives of the executive in Hinche who have asked him to contact (?them).

[Begin (Lapierre) recording] I have the feeling that... [changes thought] The way they are (?forming the group)... [changes thought] In order to give their cartel force, in order to keep their jobs, they (?might) put in some men who (?carry) weight, you know? But, I am not willing to serve evil. Evil [words indistinct]...

[Reporter, interrupting] So you suspect that you might be included? And that is why you are making this statement?

[(Lapierre)] I suppose. I guess so. I don't like it at all because I would like—if someone were to offer me a job—for him to tell me: I have such and such a type of job for you. [Words indistinct] for me to go and contact you. [Indistinct question] Nothing. Nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing. I mean, I (?might) have received negative suggestions, you now what I mean? As if.... [changes thought] Veiled hints because the guy knows [words indistinct], he is never going to tell anyone [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] But has anyone offered you a job?

[(Lapierre)] Not offered a job, but, you know, they sort of make you crooked proposals. They make you feel that (?they can help you) [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Observers in the central plateau say that that's not all. They say that several points in Minister Saint-Pierre's document have already begun being applied. The application began as of that very week [of several points] in the document that was ratified by the Interior Ministry (?through) the signature of [then] Interior Minister Carl Dorsainvil. The military authorities are searching vehicles and recording the names of all passengers. There are also many men wearing olive green in the streets.

What (Arnel Lapierre) was wondering about during the interview was: Could it be that there will be another Jean-Rabel, Labadie, (?or Marche-a-Terre), in the central plateau?

This is Alex Joseph, from Hinche for Radio Metropole.

Demonstration Blocks Activities in Gonaives
FL0303172689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Report from Gonaives correspondent Bredy Delva]

[Excerpts] The demonstration for the release of teacher Paul Edouard Cantave, who was kidnapped this morning at 0400, is continuing in Gonaives. We can say that there have been no incidents, aside from the fact that tear gas was used by the forces of order as demonstrators passed in front of the Toussaint Louverture Barracks. That is why the demonstrators dispersed and resumed the demonstration [words indistinct]. As they demonstrated, the students set up flaming barricades at every intersection they passed.

Activities are sort of blocked in Gonaives. There is no school. Of the public administrations, only the bank was open. Demonstrators forced the employees of other public offices to close up.

Tension is running very high as we talk to you right now. Only the release of Paul Edouard Cantave can lower it. Demonstrators did not calm down despite the intervention of new prefect, Mr Guy Latortue. The students seem deaf and blind to everything. They just continue to demand that Polo be released.

The prefect was nevertheless able to say a few words to the demonstrators. He told them that neither he himself nor the district's commanding officer knew about the kidnapping of teacher Paul Edouard Cantave. Here is Sergo Lamothe, who witnessed the event. He will tell us what happened.

[Lamothe] OK, well, it was 0400. I heard the door (?knocked on). Then, I heard [words indistinct]. I know he always has rendezvous with people. I figured that it was one of the people he has rendezvous with who had come. Before [words indistinct] I turned on the light. As soon as I did, the door [words indistinct], and I found myself (?facing a bunch of men armed with Uzi's). They said: Where is Mr Cantave? [passage omitted] They handcuffed him. [passage omitted].

[Delva] As we said, tension is very high in Gonaives, where students, teachers, and friends and relatives of Paul Edouard Cantave are demanding that he be released.

We are on the scene, following events, and will keep you informed of any developments.

'Kidnapped' Teacher Released

FL0303173789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Announcer, in French] It seems there are new developments in Gonaives. We are thus going to listen to Bredy Delva give us the latest news from Gonaives.

[Delva] [Passage omitted] The situation has indeed evolved.

Professor Paul Edouard Cantave has been released. He was welcomed, upon release, by thousands of extremely excited people. [Delva switches to Creole] Listen to how it was. [recording of crowd cheering]

Professor Edouard Cantave made the following statements before our microphone. Listen. [passage omitted]

That was teacher Paul Edouard Cantave, who was kidnapped this morning at approximately 0400. He was telling us what it was like and how he came to be released.

We inform listeners that Mr Paul Edouard Cantave, who teaches social sciences at the lycee and several other schools in Gonaives, was a Haitian Liberation Party candidate for deputy for the electoral district of Marchande Dessalines in the elections of 29 November 1987.

Teacher Explains Incident

FL0303180889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1200 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Several thousand students demonstrated yesterday in Gonaives in protest of the arrest of a social sciences teacher, Mr Paul Edouard Cantave. Mr Cantave was accused of being an agitator. He was released in the town of Saint-Marc yesterday afternoon.

[Begin Gonaives correspondent (Jean Boucheau Joseph) recording] [Passage omitted] Cantave was arrested by four unidentified persons—two civilians and two soldiers—this morning [2 March]. They were driving a white Toyota jeep with no license plates. They accused Mr Cantave of being someone who is paid to stage demonstrations in Gonaives. [passage omitted]

The student demonstration began about 0800 and ended at 1300 after Mr Cantave was released. The unidentified people dropped him at the foot of (?the big hill in) Saint-Marc, near Pont Sonde. [passage omitted]

[(Joseph)] Jean-Yves Ansy Champagne, commanding officer of the Gonaives military district, and prefect Guy Latortue went on air at Radio Independance Nouvelle [name as heard] and asked the population to remain calm. They said they were going to do everything in their power to discover who these unidentified people are and get Paul Edouard Cantave released.

The Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers, CATH, and the Federation of Gonaives Students, FEG, have also condemned this criminal act committed against Cantave by these four unidentified people and they expressed the hope that this would not happen here again. [end recording]

Port, Water Works Employees Return to Work

FL0303213789 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Work is recommencing timidly at Camep [Metropolitan Area Water Works] today—mostly the administrative personnel. [passage omitted] Today, the administrative personnel has gone back to work.

The APN [National Port Authority] has also gone back to work. [passage omitted] Finance Minister Leonce Thelusma visited the APN employees yesterday and promised to come up with solutions to the employees' demands. [passage omitted]

Thus, work has been resumed today, Friday 3 March, at the APN, following certain promises made by Finance Minister Thelusma. He has promised that the wage scale will be revised, among other things.

MOP Leader on Current Strife Within Party

FL0203183189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in French 1800 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Is the MOP [Movement for the Organization of the Country] ready to break up? Will Gerard Philippe Auguste resign? [RTNH] reporter Louis Seize France seems to have obtained answers to these questions.

[France] Our newsroom has been snowed under with press releases from the MOP for more than 3 weeks now. Under party founder Daniel Eustache Fignole, the MOP used to be called the Workers-Peasants Movement. All these press releases call for the resignation of Daniel Fignole's replacement, Gerard Philippe Auguste, as party head. It seems the people sending these press releases accuse Auguste of being incompetent to lead the MOP and reproach him for running the MOP in a dictatorial manner.

In an interview with Mr Auguste, he told us that there were four people who harbor the ambition of doing some crooked wheeling and dealing and making some money at the expense of MOP members, and that they are unable to do this because he himself is not allowing it. Thus, they have revolted against him. Now they want to become president in order to make more money. Mr Auguste says he is not going to resign.

[Begin Auguste recording] They seek to sully me. They put out communiques with fake signatures. They sign all kinds of things. They say any kind of inanity in these communiques. All these things are lies. If you go into details, you will see how they are lies.

Thus, basically, what I think is that there is a group of three or four ambitious men who want to become president of the MOP, because as president, they can wheel and deal crookedly and make more money, because they can sell all of us here. [end recording]

Also, the MOP leader said that a political party was not a haphazard thing. There are regulations governing each thing. Even if someone does not wish to remain in the party any longer, if he held an important position, his replacement is decided on in a general assembly—certainly not by a group of people who consider themselves [words indistinct] and who appoint themselves president and vice president!

Mr Auguste says that they will not get away with this coup [kou]. Too many MOP members died over the past few years for them to allow macoutes who have repented to come uninvited to the MOP.

[Begin Auguste recording] Let me tell you something, fellows! I myself was elected, along with a political bureau! [passage omitted] [end recording]

Later in the interview, Mr Auguste told us that what gave rise to this division was a press release in which macoutes were discussed; the men had been against the macoutes' names being revealed, claiming that they could die within the MOP, for (?playing politics). That was what started the conflict.

Auguste says that this movement cannot hurt the party's political future. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners that this is not the first time the MOP confronts this kind of problem. There is already one MOP overseas and two others in Port-au-Prince. We are wondering if this means that there is going to be a fourth MOP at Daniel Fignole's expense? We await an answer to this question from the members of the MOP.

Radio Antilles-Internationales Wins Case
FL0303190389 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in French 1800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The judge of the tribunal for summary procedure (tribunal des referes) has ruled in favor of the director of Radio Antilles-Internationales. Thus, the frequency of 93.5 stereo, which was the object of the litigation, has been restored to Jacques Sampeur, who has been authorized to resume immediately the broadcasts stopped last October.

Radio Antilles-Internationales lawyer Osner Fevry says this is a victory of law over arbitrariness and injustice. [passage omitted]

Fevry said even if there is an appeal the decision was clear and precise and will be maintained. Mr Fevry explained that Judge (Fougere) declared that Mr Lucien Adan of Conatel [National Telecommunications Council], and Franck Paultre, minister of public works, transport, and communications, violated the law on Haitian telecommunications. [passage omitted]

More Bodies Appear in Port-au-Prince Streets
FL0303151089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The body of a man shot to death was discovered on Delmas 31 here in Port-au-Prince this morning. Neighborhood residents reported that there was an argument between the victim and a soldier last night.

Another body—that of a young man stabbed to death—was found behind the industrial park. That body is still there. Also this morning, a dead baby was found in a cardboard box in the Bois Verna section [an area where there are many schools], near the Paguy Driver Training School.

That makes three dead bodies found in the streets of Port-au-Prince: two adults and one baby.

Concern Over Climate of Insecurity Noted
FL0303210789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1400 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Excerpts] In view of the current climate of insecurity in Haiti, the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces—in a press release bearing yesterday's date [2 March]—calls for vigilance on the part of the population of Haiti's nine geographical departments so as to counter all the terrorist actions that are killing people, taking innocent lives throughout Haiti. According to the Liaison Committee, the problem of insecurity must be solved by means of concerted action. Thus, the Liaison Committee recommends to all its members, fans, and sympathizers that they form vigilance brigades so that they can defend themselves and protect their families.

Here is some of the advice that the Liaison Committee gives in its press release:

First, it asks everyone to organize watch brigades to patrol neighborhoods all night long.

Second, it suggests that (?these brigades) carry whistles, conch shells, and bells with which to sound the alarm when truants appear.

Third, it suggests they form groups so as to be able to capture anyone committing terrorist acts in their neighborhood. When they catch such a person, they should call journalists and also, they should turn the person over to the police alive.

The Liaison Committee feels this is the only way the Haitian people can defend themselves against the insecurity that exists in the streets of Port-au-Prince.

In this connection, we also interviewed certain people particularly affected by the problem of insecurity. We will have you listen to the statements of some of these people. [passage omitted]

That is how a teacher, director of a school, sees the problem of insecurity in the capital. This also holds true for the provincial towns. However, here in the capital, especially, there are schools that have double shifts: one in the morning and one in the evening. The 1700-2100 shift and business schools have been having a lot of trouble operating lately because of the insecurity. Everyone on the streets has to go home by 1900.

We also interviewed many students who informed us that they are having a lot of trouble preparing their baccalaureat exams, especially since they cannot stay out too late in the streets [under the streetlights, where students whose homes have no electricity traditionally study] to study and prepare for the exam normally. [passage omitted]

Merchants, too, say they are having lots of problems, for they get attacked on their way home after closing up their businesses. They say this problem of insecurity must be solved quickly. [passage omitted]

Organizations Ask for Portion of Aid Money

FL0203201189 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in Creole 1700 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpt] We are going to hear from our correspondent in Saint-Marc, who informs us that certain organizations have demanded from the government a portion of the foreign aid received.

[Correspondent] A note from the secretariat of three democratic organizations in Saint-Marc—[name indistinct], APRA [Association of Revolutionary Haitian Patriots], and APA [not further identified]—says to the

Avril government that the money that foreign countries lend Haiti is for all Haitians, who all have to pay it back. The money loaned to Haiti by foreign countries is for all Haitians.

They say that they have heard that the U.S. Government sent a \$33-million loan to Haiti, and they never heard [words indistinct].

The democratic associations in Saint-Marc ask [words indistinct] \$2 million for each [geographical] department, (?to build) factories in order to reduce unemployment in Haiti.

They say that they will not consider any government their government until it disperses money (?equitably). [passage omitted]

El Salvador

FMLN Issues Communique on Proposed Talks
PA0403141489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos
in Spanish to El Salvador 1328 GMT 4 Mar 89

[FMLN General Command communique issued in El Salvador on 4 March]

[Text] Four days have passed since we advised the government that we were willing to attend the 4 and 5 March meeting; however, we have received no answer. It is obvious that no meeting will be held today. We are 2 weeks away from the 19 March elections, yet we do not know when the meeting will be held or whether there will be a meeting. The government commission has not been appointed and the Armed Forces has ordered a false cease-fire. It has not halted its military operations or repressive actions in the rural and urban areas. We have enough information, confirmed today by THE WASHINGTON POST, to state that the counterproposal presented by President Jose Napoleon Duarte was drafted with the active participation of the U.S. Embassy in an attempt to isolate ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], reject our peace proposal, and place the Army in a position to carry out an electoral fraud that would ensure victory for the Christian Democratic Party.

We hereby make a patriotic call to all the national sectors, especially to the large popular majorities, to make sure that the progress made since our 23 January peace proposal is not lost. In this attempt, and aware that we are nearing the end of the opportune time, we propose that a meeting for negotiations be held no later than 7 and 8 March in San Salvador. The presidential candidates' refusal to withdraw, Duarte's last-minute maneuvering proposal, the false unilateral cease-fire proposed by the Armed Forces, and the indefinite delay of the meeting between the government, the FMLN, and the political parties is proof that the government, the military command, and the Legislative Assembly majority are not willing to give peace a chance.

In publicly stating its position regarding its opposition to the postponement of the 19 March elections, ARENA today clearly and openly joined the maneuver to block all changes that would turn the elections into an instrument for peace. ARENA has turned its back on a commitment made previously during the meeting in Mexico.

It is unfortunate that U.S. intervention in the Salvadoran people's decisionmaking process has once again removed the possibility of peaceful solutions to the conflict. In the beginning, the new U.S. Administration called for serious consideration to be given to our new peace proposal. In doing so, it respected our right to self-determination and supported our people's hopes for peace. Now it has gone back to its interventionist policy that promotes a continuation and heightening of the war. The unilateral cease-fire suggested by the Armed Forces

is an attempt to continue waging a war in an underhanded manner. They want us to halt our military actions, but they will not halt their patrolling and operations within our territory and against our forces, continuing their repressive actions in the rural and urban areas. This is absurd and unacceptable.

A real cease-fire calls for: territorial demarcations along the more than 30 fronts where FMLN troops are permanently stationed to prevent casual or premeditated attacks; the withdrawal and return to garrisons of all troops involved in offensive operations and of the so-called rapid deployment infantry battalions; an end to all air operations, including those so-called air patrol operations; removal of all artillery equipment and armored personnel carriers and their return to the garrisons; an end to searches in the cities; an end to arbitrary arrests, disappearances, torture, and murders carried out by the security corps; and the establishment of impartial and permanent verification measures to ensure compliance with mutually agreed upon commitments. In other words, an extended cease-fire must be negotiated and agreed upon. The colonels themselves have denied that a unilateral 3 month cease-fire—through 1 June—exists. They have reiterated that they will continue their operations and will shoot any armed person who is not a member of the Armed Forces. This was clearly stated by Colonel Mauricio Vargas. This is a mockery of the Salvadoran people and the international community.

A refusal to agree upon a cease-fire with guarantees would mean the same as opening the doors to a dirty war; what is worse, it would continue the reign of terror on the people. We can agree to nothing less. An extended cease-fire must be negotiated and agreed upon. The truce necessary to hold the meeting can be unilaterally declared by the two parties.

We reiterate that the FMLN will do so [declare a truce] as soon as the date for the meeting draws near. We reiterate that we will attend the meeting with the government seeking specific agreements for peace, based on our original proposal of 23 January: to postpone the elections to 15 September and to hold them with a guarantee that they will be clean, with maximum citizen participation, while keeping the troops confined to the barracks, etc. In addition, we will attend the meeting based on the proposals we made in Mexico to definitively end the armed struggle. These proposals concern:

1. Trial and punishment of those responsible for indiscriminate killings and crimes that served to escalate the war. We want to clarify that we are not referring to acts of war or circumstantial actions linked to the war, such as bombings and other similar actions. We are referring to aberrant killings of hundreds of unarmed women, children, and old people, and crimes such as the killing of Msgr Romero, the FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front] leaders, and the American nuns, which had no justification.

It is necessary to purge what supposedly will be society's only armed institution. These crimes must be solved and adjudicated so that there will be no assassins in positions of authority.

We are ready to discuss this matter with the high command and to provide evidence and witnesses. If these crimes we are mentioning had not been committed, many Salvadorans would not have taken up arms, society would not have become divided, and war would not have gone on this long.

There are some who say that, consequently, the FMLN should also be tried. The FMLN has never murdered people indiscriminately. It has never murdered civilians intentionally or killed priests or nuns. The FMLN actions are a result and not a cause of what the Armed Forces did or are doing.

The essence of our proposal is not designed to defend ourselves from accusations but to guarantee our people that, once the war ends, the only armed organization that exists is respectable.

Up to now, jails have been filled with suspected or real guerrillas, unionists, peasants, students, teachers, etc. In our country, the victims are dead, imprisoned, missing, or living in terror while the victimizers are free.

If we want a true democracy, we must try the assassins who have incited and who have continued to wage a dirty war. This is a requirement that, if met, would purge the Armed Forces and, at the same time, make the judicial branch independent, honest, and trustworthy.

2. A reduction of the Armed Forces from the 36,000 it truly has now to the 12,000 figure it had in 1978.

The official figure, more than 50,000 troops, is a fantasy that does not correspond to reality. Reality is different. The Armed Forces' military units are incomplete. They have been decimated by combat casualties, desertion, and a resistance to recruitment by force.

3. The elimination of the current security organizations and the formation of a new civilian police run by an authority chosen in free and clean elections, not by the top military command, which is the one truly running our country, though the people did not elect it.

Neither the Army nor the police should have the power to discriminate, persecute, or repress for ideological reasons or because of group or political differences with the government or any social sector.

We urge the top command not to be afraid of the dialogue, to reflect and be flexible, to be willing to negotiate and participate in discussions among Salvadorans so that we can seriously and patriotically promise the people and the world that we will have peace and democracy.

We will demilitarize society. Let us make the Armed Forces an instrument that is only as big as absolutely needed for its role in peace time, subordinate to the authority chosen by the people, devoid of assassins, trustworthy to all, a real guarantor of true sovereignty and democracy at the service of the entire nation instead of favoring one party over the other.

The top command must understand that the time has come in our history when the military chiefs must abandon the role they had as inquisitors and supreme electors, a role they have played for 57 years at the cost of so much blood, suffering, hatred, and harm to our fatherland.

This is the dictatorship we must end to attain lasting peace, democracy, and sovereignty in El Salvador. This would be a great victory of the Salvadoran people's ideals, the beginning of their self-determination, which is well worth the definitive silencing of our weapons. Anything else would require our surrender, which is impossible.

We urge the U.S. Government not to continue being an obstacle but to be a respectful promoter so that we Salvadorans can find a solution to our own problems.

[Signed] Commanders Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Francisco Jovel, Jorge Shafik Handal, Eduardo Sancho, and Joaquin Villalobos

FMLN General Command, El Salvador, 4 March 1989

Urban Commandos Reject Government Cease-Fire
PA0303134089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0448 GMT
3 Mar 89

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Mar (AFP)—According to rebel spokesmen, FMLN urban commando units operating in El Salvador's principal cities today warned that they will continue their actions and rejected the unilateral cease-fire decreed by the Army as of 1 March.

In statements to a journalist from a San Salvador station, FMLN urban commando unit leaders Elias Cardenal and Carlos Hernandez reiterated that the guerrillas will not declare a truce unless there are mutual commitments.

The urban commando unit leaders, who hid their faces behind red scarves while speaking to the journalist, said: "We are awaiting any order from the FMLN General Command."

The leaders explained they will only suspend their actions if the two conflicting parties agree to work toward bringing peace to the country, which has been at war for 9 years.

The FMLN spokesmen, however, charged that the Armed Forces have not ended their nationwide operations despite having declared a unilateral cease-fire.

An attack occurred today in front of a government office in northern San Salvador, in which one security guard was wounded. Alleged guerrilla commando units have unofficially been held responsible for the attack.

For the past several weeks, FMLN urban commando units have launched an intensive sabotage campaign against electrical systems, homes of government officials, buses, stores, and military installations.

Official figures indicate that the urban guerrillas carry out between four and five attacks a day in San Salvador, Santa Ana and San Miguel—El Salvador's principal cities.

5 Mar Truce Declared for Child Vaccinations
PA0303185289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1748 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Health Minister Benjamin Valdez said today that the Salvadoran Army and guerrillas will declare a truce on 5 March to make possible this year's first child vaccination day against infectious diseases.

"These agreements have already been made. Both sides have told us that they will permit us to enter strife-torn areas," the minister said when he announced that "everything is ready for the vaccinations."

For the 3d consecutive year, the Salvadoran Government will carry out a day of children's vaccinations to prevent contagious diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, and measles.

The Salvadoran Army declared a unilateral cease-fire from 28 February to 1 June for the purpose of facilitating talks with the guerrillas, as proposed by President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

The FMLN has promised the health minister that it will permit the vaccinations, heeding the appeal issued by San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas.

Approximately 250,000 children ranging from 2 months to 6 years and pregnant women who are highly susceptible to contagious diseases will be vaccinated.

The vaccinations throughout the country will begin at 1400 and end at 2200. Preference will be given to the rural areas, many of which are in areas of conflict.

15,000 March for Peace in San Salvador
PA0403224189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2023 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] San Salvador, 4 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Thousands of demonstrators marched in the streets of the Salvadoran capital today to demand that the government and the guerrillas reach an end to the armed conflict through peaceful means.

The march, involving some 15,000 Salvadorans, was conducted peacefully and was called for by the Permanent Commission for National Debate, which has the support of the nation's churches.

The commission is made up of 59 social, humanitarian, academic, and religious organizations and was founded in 1988 to find a political and negotiated solution to the war in El Salvador, which, in the past 9 years, has caused 70,000 deaths.

The demonstration began early this morning in the eastern part of the capital and ended in downtown San Salvador, where the movement's leaders called for an end to the war in El Salvador.

Thousands of men, women, and young people, most of them peasants and members of religious groups, marched through the main streets of San Salvador shouting "peace and negotiation." The demonstrators carried white flags and posters demanding that the government and the guerrillas find peace.

Edgar Palacios, leader of that organization, asked the government to agree to negotiate with the guerrillas to achieve a "rational solution to the war." Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the Central American University, spoke at the end of the rally and said that the government should keep its word and reach an agreement with the guerrillas before the 19 March presidential elections.

Ellacuria, a nationalized Salvadoran of Basque origin, demanded "greater efforts" and that "the Constitution not be used as a shield" to avoid reaching a political agreement. The Salvadoran guerrillas today issued an ultimatum to the government, proposing 7 and 8 March as the deadline for holding a meeting to postpone the 19 March presidential elections.

The rebels insisted that the meeting should take place in El Salvador and not in Guatemala, as proposed by the government, which has agreed in principle to a possible postponement of the election date and to holding direct negotiations with the guerrillas to end the war.

'Approximately 100,000' March
PA0503011989 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti
in Spanish 2345 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] [Words indistinct] on 4 March [words indistinct], approximately 100,000 Salvadorans demanded that the FMLN peace proposal be accepted and that the elections be held 15 September amid a climate of peace and true democracy. Approximately 100,000 Salvadorans marched, defeating the repression of the high command assassins.

According to one report, while the demonstration—involving more than 70 organizations and public sectors—was taking place, Air Force helicopters hovered

threateningly overhead. The high command also posted military units along the entire route of this vast demonstration. The demonstrators shouted: 'We want peace and social justice.'

Once again this shows Duarte and the high command that the Salvadoran people are opposed to war and want peace. It also demonstrates their repudiation of the people's assassins. [Words indistinct] that vast demonstration for peace, our guerrilla units continue to attack the troops of the dictatorship.

Armed Forces Cease-Fire Labeled 'Smoke Screen'
PA0403184589 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti
in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] The Salvadoran people and the world have already identified the so-called unilateral cease-fire as a smoke screen with which the Christian Democratic government is attempting to conceal its plans for psychological warfare, terror, violations, and other outrages. These plans are being directed by the Psychological Operations Department, the general staff, and [Defense Minister Eugenio] Vides Casanova. Duarte's response to our proposal is the Armed Forces' policy of repression, outrage, and violation. The high command's repressive policy is complemented by the delaying tactics being practiced by Jose Napoleon Duarte and his Christian Democratic Party [PDC], the Legislative Assembly, and the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA]. No wonder the UDN [National Democratic Union] has said that the ARENA and the PDC are showing a complete lack of political will to respond to the demands for peace and real negotiation being made by the nation.

Further Comment on Army Cease-Fire, Marches
PA0603041989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos
in Spanish to El Salvador 0015 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Last week was a week of massive mobilizations for peace by the people. Within the framework of the national demand for peace, various peoples organizations conducted large demonstrations last week. Those organizations marched and demanded a political negotiated solution to the country's conflict.

The various demonstrations culminated with the great march for peace organized by the Permanent Commission for National Debate. Thousands of people holding white flags participated in the march. They expressed the national outcry for a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict.

The grand demonstration of the many organizations comprising the Permanent Commission for National Debate [passage indistinct] the peoples mobilization said elections [words indistinct] of 19 March are [word indistinct] and made a statement supporting the FMLN proposal to postpone the elections until September to open the road for peace.

It is important to stress that the people's daily demonstrations, including that of the Permanent Commission for National Debate, have been conducted after Jose Napoleon Duarte released his counterproposal, which from the very beginning was described by various political sectors as a maneuver to support the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] during the elections and reduce the impact of the FMLN proposal.

The false unilateral cease-fire declared by the Armed Forces has also been interpreted as a maneuver. The cease-fire declaration seeks to show flexibility and cover the increasing repression in the urban and rural areas.

That maneuver, however, did not have the propaganda results expected by the government. In view of several reports presented by various organizations about the [word indistinct] of Armed Forces violent actions, it is clear the cease-fire is not a serious declaration.

One day after Duarte presented his counterproposal, and on the same day as the Army announced its unilateral cease-fire, a [name indistinct] demonstration in support of the FMLN proposal was violently dispersed by 3d Infantry Brigade troops in San Miguel City.

Arrests and murders continue. Professor Miguel Angel Laso was killed by the Air Force [words indistinct] of the death squads. Meanwhile, military operations in several areas controlled by the FMLN continue. The government's true intentions were clearly seen when the executive and legislative branches—in other words, when the PDC and the Nationalist Republican Alliance—jointly announced the decision to hold elections on 19 March. That decision denies any possibility of peace. That decision tacitly rejects the FMLN proposal.

Recent events, however, show that the Salvadoran people are willing to attain peace with democracy and social justice and that the FMLN continues to make serious efforts to reach an honorable national agreement, which is undoubtedly near as the peoples' forces gather strength to define solutions to the conflict.

Parties Suspend Meeting on FMLN Proposal
PA0403000189 San Salvador Canal Seis Television
in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Report by Joel Burgos—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Several politicians today pointed out that the political parties seem to be losing interest in continuing the ongoing discussions on the rebel proposal. The politicians say this could destroy the framework established after the FMLN announced its proposal. A meeting that was scheduled to take place today was suspended twice.

[Mario Aguinada Carranza of the National Democratic Union] "I believe that rather than a suspension of the dialogue among parties, there is actually a chilling effect on the possibility of discussing and approving the FMLN proposal."

At that meeting today, the parties would have discussed the new stand taken by the executive and legislative branches, whose leaders held a meeting at the Presidential Palace yesterday.

[Antonio Morales Ehrlich of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC] "One of our goals would be learn about the results of that meeting between the leaders of the Assembly and the Executive Branch. Another issue that concerns us is the fact that the legislative branch has not yet officially appointed its delegates. I think we should have asked them to do so to avoid confusion. After all, these meetings were intended to evaluate the FMLN proposal."

This new discussion has turned into a struggle between the PDC and the Nationalist Republican Alliance, which controls the executive and legislative branches, respectively.

Ricardo Alvarenga Valdivieso, president of the Legislative Assembly, said this morning that the Assembly will appoint a delegation to participate in talks with the FMLN. He added, however, that this will happen next week. This means that the 4 and 5 March dates proposed by the guerrillas would be out and 19 March [words indistinct]:

[Alvarenga] "As I said yesterday at the Presidential Palace, we even committed ourselves to appointing a delegation. We will do so as soon as possible."

[Reporter] "[Question indistinct]"

[Alvarenga] "We are working on that. I first want to reach an agreement with the Assembly leadership. I will try to call a meeting before Wednesday; otherwise, we would have to wait for a meeting scheduled for Wednesday and make a decision on the delegation at that date."

The National Conciliation Party [PCN] described the current situation as confusing:

[Hugo Carrillo of the PCN] "What I see coming is a new exchange of proposals and counterproposals. Today, there are three proposed dates for the elections: the scheduled 19 March date, the government's proposed 30 April date, and the guerrillas' proposed date in September. There are three election proposals, but no one can guarantee that peace will be achieved with these proposals."

This suspension of the meeting between the political parties is being described as a delaying tactic. Meanwhile, the deadlines established for the presidential elections are closer each day. This empty room in which I am standing could reflect what really exists among the political parties: a vacuum of willingness, as critics are saying.

CD Proposes 9 July Presidential Elections

PA0303221489 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 1900 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] The Democratic Convergence [CD] today proposed that the presidential elections be held on 9 July and that the political parties facilitate this postponement by withdrawing their candidates prior to 10 March.

As was announced during a news conference, this proposal by the CD leadership aims to pressure the branches of government and the country's two majority parties, the Christian Democratic Party and ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], into making decisions. According to the CD, both majority parties are delaying a decision on postponing the elections so as to make it impossible to postpone the elections past 1 July.

[Begin CD leader Ruben Zamora recording] The CD proposes that, abandoning any campaign maneuvers, we decide to make peace now and that we do so in a clear and definite way. That is why we propose that the government, the FMLN, and the political parties agree to implement the following points:

1. Postponing the presidential elections until 9 July.
2. Holding a meeting among the government, the FMLN, and the political parties from 7 to 9 March in Mexico to agree on the following:
 - A. A definite cease-fire.
 - B. The mechanisms for the FMLN's participation in the elections. [end recording]

In the same proposal, the CD suggested that the parties involved in the election campaign go to the Central Electoral Council on 10 March to withdraw their presidential candidates and that the Armed Forces and the FMLN declare a cease-fire effective at the start of negotiations.

The CD said the proposal is aimed primarily at the executive and legislative branches.

250 Municipal Employees Resign After Threat

PA0503163489 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA
in Spanish 1 Mar 89 p 55

[Text] More than 250 municipal employees resigned last night in Usulután after the FMLN-FDR threatened to kill them if they failed to do so.

The mayor of Usulután, who was also threatened by the FMLN-FDR, had previously resigned his position, leaving the local government without a leader.

All the section chiefs and other municipal employees decided to publicly resign today after receiving a blanket threat against all of them.

The situation will become even more critical for the families whose heads of household work in the local municipal offices. Representatives of this large group of

officials and employees have contacted international organizations, asking for their help in getting the FMLN to stop issuing threats—particularly at a time when the main issue is the national search for peace.

Various Bombs

Sections of Mejicanos and the Altamira, Escalon, San Benito, and other neighborhoods were affected by the explosion of several devices last evening.

A general alarm spread in these areas, affecting activities in local restaurants, industries, and businesses.

Recent FMLN Actions, Attacks Reported

28 Feb Attack on La Union

PA0203024389 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL
in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Report by Salomon Flores Pinango from Santa Rosa de Lima, La Union Department]

[Text] [Flores] This is Santa Rosa de Lima, where Military Detachment No 3 headquarters is located. It was attacked by FMLN leftist guerrillas. At least seven guerrillas and two soldiers died when an undetermined number of guerrillas attacked at 2300 last night. The attack lasted until 0200 today.

Seven bodies were observed outside the military base, where we have Colonel Francisco de la Puente with us. He comments on the present situation:

[Puente] At 2300 last night, an attack began against the military base in Santa Rosa de Lima. I want to say the town and the Atonal (?Inn) were also affected. [Words indistinct] probably because of the attack, which was carried out by approximately 60 or 65 terrorists.

The attack was not as successful as they wanted. Our soldiers defended themselves courageously, but unfortunately I have to report that two soldiers were killed and seven wounded. However, as you already said, we have here the bodies of the terrorists who fell, and it is obvious that they had many wounded, because we are in the battlefield and there are many traces of blood.

We have a report that [words indistinct] before dawn they were asking for help from passing motorists to help them transport the wounded they were carrying.

[Flores] [Words indistinct] knowledge of the cease-fire by the Armed Forces began at 0000 today. If the guerrillas attacked at 2300 last night and continued the attack until 0200 today, [words indistinct].

[Puente] [Words indistinct] that the terrorists never want peace. The terrorists and their political leaders, the leaders of the masses in San Salvador, as you know there [words indistinct] Centeno, Portillo, all are leaders of the

masses, who are precisely terrorist types. How often have you seen them in peaceful demonstrations in San Salvador with white flags? They go around with dirty red rags of communism, and this is what they [word indistinct].

[Flores] One of the dead guerrillas was sitting beside a well. He was holding some papers that the soldiers took. His name was Leonardo Ruiz, alias Ernesto. He was approximately 25 years old, tall and bearded. Col de la Puente said it was possible that this man was leading the FMLN guerrillas, who, in their desperate attack, according to the colonel, attacked the Santa Rosa de Lima military base and other military positions in this same place.

More on La Union Battle

PA0103202189 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos
in Spanish to El Salvador 1838 GMT 1 Mar 89

["Official Bulletin" on 28 February attack on the 3d Military Detachment in Santa Rosa de Lima, La Union Department]

[Text] We have just received the official report on the actions carried out in Santa Rosa de Lima. Please pay attention. The maneuver, which began at 2300 sharp on 28 February, consisted of an annihilation attack on the base [17-second break in reception] west to the south. Fifteen minutes after the attack was launched, our forces had already taken over all of the defense posts on the perimeter of the base and they proceeded to annihilate the troops who were asleep in the installations.

4. [number as heard] Simultaneously, other units launched a containment attack on the National Police post.

5. Other units carried out eviction attacks on National Police posts in the place known as (El Rotulo).

6. Results of the operation: 37 casualties.

b. [letter as heard] Destruction of a barracks where the troops were quartered, and partial destruction of the building where the battalion's command post was housed.

Six M-16 rifles, 8 knapsacks, 10 M-79 grenades, 1,500 5.56-mm cartridges, 5 cartridge clips for M-60 machine-guns, and other war materiel were recovered from the enemy, and a large number of weapons were destroyed.

The defense system of this military position consisted of [words indistinct] affixed to the trenches, a barbed wire fence, and trenches with pillboxes about 60 meters from the base.

As part of the maneuver, barricades were erected in Flamenco Canton on the road that goes from Anamoros to Santa Rosa de Lima, next to Tulima Canton; there were propaganda activities for the people of Socorro and (El Sabanejo); and electricity lines were disrupted along

the military route [words indistinct]. Rebel detachments also threw Molotov cocktails at the Banco de Inversion and sabotaged power lines in the same area.

This is the official bulletin on the attack on the 3d Military Detachment in which, we repeat, there were 37 casualties. This has been an official report received by Radio Venceremos at 1236.

Nicaragua

Interior Minister Views Pardons for Somozists
PA0103155189 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
27 Feb 89 pp 3, 4

["Excerpts" of speech by Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge to the Revolutionary Organization of the Disabled on 25 February; place not given]

[Text] I want to remind you that tomorrow we will commemorate in Masaya the 11th anniversary of the Minimbo insurrection. Many people from Masaya and Monimbo fell during that insurrection. Days later, on 26 February, Arnoldo Quant, Moises Rivera, and Camilo Ortega died in combat.

How many people died in the Monimbo insurrection? How many people died in the various insurrections throughout the country? Hundreds of men, women, and children. Who massacred the people of Monimbo? Who murdered Moises Rivera, Arnoldo Quant, and Camilo Ortega, just to mention those who died on 26 February? How many disabled people from Masaya are here? The Monimbo insurrection and the rest of the insurrections in the country were the result of the FSLN's creative, insurrectional, and revolutionary work.

(...) The National Guard was defeated. Some of its members left the country and joined the counterrevolution; others were imprisoned. Those men, who murdered villagers and FSLN national, mid-level, and grass-roots leaders—those men, who are to blame for flooding our nation with bloodshed, tears, rubble, and skulls—are now to be pardoned. In other words, those men—except those who committed crimes against humanity—are going to be released from the jails, where they are paying for their misdeeds.

Is this a fair decision? Does this decision suit Nicaragua's interests? Does this political decision benefit the people of Nicaragua?

This is difficult to explain. It is especially difficult to explain this to you, who are like beautiful scars on the face of our homeland. It is difficult to explain this to you, who lost your eyes, arms, or legs; you, who became paralyzed; you, the mothers who lost their children. But an explanation is necessary.

It is no secret that the moment Reagan realized he could not defeat us, he decided to inflict the greatest economic damage possible on Nicaragua. This cruel action had but a single purpose: to exasperate the people and have them witness how the carpet was pulled out from under the FSLN's very feet. They were unable to destroy us, but they did drain Nicaragua's blood. They could not destroy our revolution, but they did manage to turn Nicaragua's economy into a lunar landscape.

Revolutions are nothing more than the execution of men's most beautiful aspirations. We dream of abundance, collective happiness, and cultural splendor. War may have postponed all these dreams, but it has by no means canceled them. The imperialists hoped we would not only postpone our dreams, but cancel them. Yet we will never relinquish our dreams. In the future, our plans for health, housing, education, and other areas will push ahead like a mighty river. To achieve this, however, we need to attain peace at all costs.

This means we must give the right answer at the right time to reach the right goal. It means that, at times, we will have to make tactical concessions for the sake of strategic advances. It means we will have to understand that revolutionary progress does not occur in a linear fashion, but rather by leaps and bounds.

(...) What my previous statements mean is that the attainment of any revolutionary goal implies a sacrifice. Sometimes this sacrifice entails living one's life with an irreversible physical disability; at other times this sacrifice is manifested in a different way. The pardon we have referred to is a sacrifice we make to reach a goal.

To reach the goal of revolutionary victory, we had to fight a war. To reach the goal of revolutionary consolidation, we must achieve peace. And to achieve peace, we are willing to concede everything except our principles.

The Release of the Guards Is Not a Problem of Principles

The release of the guards is not a problem of principles. A problem of principles would be to take away the peasants' land and return it to the Somozists and landholders. A problem of principles would be to surrender our national sovereignty, to follow the instructions of a foreign government, to renounce the defense of the fatherland, to make the interests of workers subordinate to other interests. On the issue of principles we cannot, we must not, nor will we make concessions.

What do we need under the present circumstances? We need a realistic strategy that is also revolutionary. Moreover, our strategy is revolutionary because it is realistic.

For us, this is a decision shared by the leaders of the revolution, by the FSLN, and we hope it will be shared by all of you. I use the plural, because certain newspapers have made the mistake of reporting decisions of these

matters in the singular, making it look as though Daniel Ortega was solely responsible, omitting the fact that this decision, as well as others, is a collective decision.

Peace Is the Most Important Goal at the Present Time

(...) We turn to you who have always had faith, to you who—incidentally—represent an unquestionable victory against aggression.

What sense would it make for us to deny the existence of an economic crisis that is overwhelming the workers? The people, with their infallible senses, know where this crisis comes from and what the cause of this crisis is. This explains why the people continue to support the revolution despite the crisis. The real cause of the crisis is not the only thing that the Nicaraguan people know. They also know that only the FSLN can overcome the crisis.

We are faithful to our commitments, yet we will never commit ourselves to making commitments that do not faithfully serve the interests of the workers. In the final analysis, the commitments made at the presidential summit in El Salvador are an act of fidelity and a guarantee for you, who represent those who will last to the very end. If yesterday you were capable of risking life and limb, then today—without the slightest doubt—you will be able to give up at least some of your justifiable anger, provided you achieve the most important goal at the present time: peace. Peace will bring our dead back to life, since only peace can make them live on in the works of the revolution.

We should be persuaded that under the present circumstances there is but one way out, which entails the need to release the guards. When Daniel Ortega spoke at the [Commander Carlos Fonseca Amador] Plaza of the Revolution about this decision affecting the course of the revolution, his thoughts must have turned to his deceased brother Camilo. At the same time, my daughters were thinking about their mother who was murdered, and thousands of Nicaraguans must have thought about loved ones gone forever. However, we must all think about not only those who fell, but also those who might fall in the future if we do not make the right decisions.

(...) Of course, this realistic decision does not mean forgetting. Just as we do not forget our loved ones, we will not forget the crimes. To forget would be to justify the crimes, and would spark new ones. We will never forget that Somoza murdered Sandino, nor that Sandinism—that is to say, the revolution—became a reality because we did not forget Sandino's death.

By not forgetting our loved ones, our war heroes, and those who fell in combat, we are providing continuity to the revolution. By not forgetting the crimes we are strengthening justice. While this decision has acquired dramatic overtones, it is not a new decision. More than 4,400 Somozists have already been released for a variety

of reasons (pardons, completion of sentence, release by the public prosecutor's office, dismissal of charges, confinement under house arrest).

The purpose of a revolution is to free man from alienation, from his negative instincts, and from his vicious tendencies. However, there are indeed atrocious crimes that harm nations instead of individuals; these crimes cannot be pardoned. Perhaps we as human beings are capable of forgiving these crimes, but history will never forgive them—and history is what most resembles God. Reagan is not a mere prisoner. His crimes cannot be pardoned. Reagan is a prisoner of history. History, or God, will never forgive him.

Our granting a pardon does not mean we are forgetting. Forgiving does not imply forgetting. Forgiveness implies giving up the parameters of justice. Our granting a pardon to Somozists does not imply that history will forgive the current heirs of Somozism. Furthermore, the people of Nicaragua have an outstanding memory. This is a good thing for our enemies to bear in mind.

We must also remember that, in politics, one cannot negotiate without making concessions. Sometimes we give and take in more or less equal terms. In exchange for the release of the Somozist guards, the Central American leaders have promised to demobilize the counterrevolution in their nations and to prevent the counterrevolution from further organizing and carrying out actions against Nicaragua. Demobilizing implies deactivating, leaving without movement, freezing; in other words, it implies putting an end to the war. Ultimately, it implies putting an end to the counterrevolution.

We will release the Somozists in exchange for an end to the counterrevolution, not for electoral freedom. Electoral freedom exists by the very nature of our revolutionary democracy. The Somozists' release is not in exchange for early elections. Holding early elections does not imply any substantial concession, nor does it violate a country's laws. Furthermore, this decision remains subject to political consultation.

(...) Everyone knows we have placed all our efforts on the scale; it will have to tip toward the side of peace. If peace is outweighed by warmongering schemes and options, we will at least have performed our historic responsibility. We will have fulfilled our commitments and thus performed our duty.

Ortega, Obando y Bravo Discuss Agreements
PA0503025789 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
3 Mar 89 pp 1, 5

[Text] In keeping with a mandate from the five Central American heads of state, President Daniel Ortega yesterday briefed Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, president of the National Reconciliation Commission [CNR], on accords reached in El Salvador and on the steps taken by the Nicaraguan Government to comply with them.

For over 2 hours, the top government and Catholic Church representatives discussed government actions, including the release of former Somozist guards from prison and bilateral talks with the opposition on amending the Electoral and Media Laws, the deadline for which is 25 April.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo and President Ortega agreed on the need to expedite the formation of a commission to travel to Honduras to mediate with President Azcona, the archbishop, and the CNR in that country on behalf of individuals who have been kidnapped and who are being still held in contra camps in Honduran territory.

The CNR will meet today at the seminary following 4 months of inactivity awaiting the outcome of the summit in El Salvador.

In his meeting with the cardinal, President Ortega underscored the importance of his efforts on behalf of those kidnapped and his appeal to local media to show prudence in their attempts to incite the people into raiding and looting stores and to openly campaign against the government's efforts to achieve an economic and political agreement.

During the meeting between President Ortega and Cardinal Obando y Bravo, the latter spoke in favor of a general amnesty for political and common prisoners; Ortega responded by saying that such an action may be possible as progress is made in dismantling the contras in Honduras and in achieving firm and lasting peace in Nicaragua.

President Ortega met with national and international reporters after the meeting, telling them that he also advocates the release of Nicaraguans who have been involved in counterrevolutionary activities. "I explained to the cardinal that I would like to take that step right now; but to do so, the plan to dismantle the contras in Honduran territory must make progress, and every threat of war must disappear. As this effort unfolds, we will continue releasing those prisoners," Ortega said.

Obando y Bravo told reporters that President Ortega had given him a copy of the agreements reached in El Salvador, but limited himself to explaining what the president had told him regarding the internal steps the government has made.

Meanwhile, President Ortega noted that during his talks with the cardinal they discussed a very important issue concerning Nicaraguan public opinion. He said that some media sources and political and labor leaders have been waging a full-scale sabotage campaign against the government's efforts to achieve an economic and political consensus and "are trying to deny the people their basic right to peace."

"They are trying to promote a policy of war," Ortega said of a series of interviews "irresponsibly" published by LA PRENSA, "in which the newspaper virtually incites the people to actions similar to those staged in Venezuela."

Ortega warned that businessmen and merchants should seriously consider this situation because most of the country's businesses and stores are in private hands. "The media's attitude will turn the people against private enterprise," Ortega explained to the cardinal that political and religious leaders can play a very significant role: They can encourage media owners to be sensible "and do the same for political and labor leaders, whose words are completely nonconstructive and confrontational."

The president said that he is preparing to ask the United Nations and the OAS to send observers to report, beginning now, on whether or not the government is fulfilling the election tasks it pledged to fulfill in the Salvadoran agreements.

Ortega said that the government's pledge was ratified along with those of the other Central American presidents in San Salvador and, therefore, "the parties must understand that this framework should be the focus of discussion and that they should not make illogical claims that go beyond the framework of the agreements."

Reconciliation Commission Meetings Resume
PA0403170189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...demands issued to the government during the meeting to renew the National Reconciliation Commission [CNR] sessions following a recess of approximately 6 months. The CNR meeting, held last evening at the Managua Archdiocese Seminary, was attended by Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo and alternate member Monsignor Bosco Vivas on behalf of the Church; Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado and Rene Nunez Tellez on behalf of the government; Mauricio Diaz and Erick Ramirez on behalf of political parties; and Gonzalo Ramirez on behalf of the Nicaraguan Red Cross.

CNR President Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo said after the meeting that Vice President Sergio Ramirez had thoroughly explained the document signed during the Central American presidents' summit in El Salvador. During the second part of the meeting, the participants reviewed the minutes of the CNR's last session and other pending issues.

[Obando y Bravo] "We have discussed the political parties' proposal to review pending issues and ascertain if the Esquipulas II agreements have been fulfilled. During the review, we discussed the Radio Catolica newscast and the case of the priests who were evicted from the country some time ago—two of them have

returned. We also reviewed the issues concerning the Social Development Commission, COPROSO. Someone said that the commission should not only inform or verify; it should be a dynamic and active commission so that it does not lose credibility."

The issue concerning the opening of a new television channel was also discussed by the CNR, according to Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

[Obando y Bravo] "We also discussed the issue of a television channel. The fact that private enterprise... [changes thought] There should be a channel handled by someone who does not represent the government. In this case, the government clearly said that channel two's broadcast transmitting power will be increased and that the political parties will be given some time on the air. The government said that the Constitution forbids the control of any broadcast channel by certain economic groups."

Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado referred to the political parties' access to television channel two.

[Mercado] "That is something that has not been decided, but CNR President Obando y Bravo discussed some ideas. We think that a directorate council should control the television station and allow the political parties to participate in the programs. These are the general ideas being discussed right now."

Survey Shows Ortega, FSLN Lead in Elections
*PA0303222789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0721 GMT
3 Mar 89*

[Text] Managua, 2 Mar (AFP)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has the lead as the Nicaraguan voters' choice for president, although he would only have 12.3 percent of the votes if the elections in Nicaragua were held today, an independent poll published in Managua revealed today.

Ortega is mentioned as the main candidate to head the Sandinist presidential slate in the general elections scheduled for next year.

The survey was conducted by the Social Analysis and Documentation Center [Centro de Documentación y Analisis Social] (CEDAS), assigned to the Manolo Morales Endowment, which receives funds from foreign organizations such as the NOVIB [expansion unknown] Endowment and the Friederich Ebert Endowment from the Netherlands and the FRG.

According to the poll, Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez placed second with 10.7 percent of the votes, followed by Interior Minister Tomas Borge with 9.1 percent.

Virgilio Godoy, former labor minister and Independent Liberal Party leader, would have 5.7 percent of the votes, while Nicaraguan Resistance leader Alfredo Cesar placed seventh with 1.6 percent.

Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo places ninth with 0.7 percent and Eden Pastora, former guerrilla commander and former defense minister, is last on the list of preferences with 0.5 percent.

The survey, conducted in the main Nicaraguan cities, where 1,800 people over 16 years of age were interviewed, shows that 53 percent of Nicaraguans have still not decided who they will vote for in the upcoming elections.

At the party level, the survey shows that the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] would win the elections with 32.7 percent of the votes, against 29.8 percent for the united opposition.

Approximately 29.5 percent of those interviewed said they had no preference, while 8 percent said they would not vote for anyone.

Meanwhile, 40.2 percent of those consulted said they favored no specific ideology, 14 percent considered themselves Sandinists, 20.3 percent Liberals, and 10.1 percent Social Christians.

The FSLN obtained 67 percent of the votes during the 1984 presidential elections.

Ortega Discusses Jan-Feb Worker Layoffs
*PA0303132289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1220 GMT 3 Mar 89*

[Unattributed report on speech by President Daniel Ortega on 2 March; place not given]

[Text] President Daniel Ortega last night discussed the employees that were laid off in January and February throughout the country.

[Begin Ortega recording] From 1 January to 24 February, 5,852 workers were laid off throughout the country, including the autonomous regions and Special Zone 3.

Right now there are 7,904 jobs available. Of these, 6,600 are temporary agricultural sector jobs that can be performed by unskilled workers, and 1,228 jobs are of a permanent nature. [figures as heard]

Most of the affected workers are entry-level technicians, 32 percent; unskilled workers, 28 percent; mid-level technicians, 15 percent; skilled workers, 13 percent; professionals, 7 percent; highly qualified technicians, 3 percent; and others, 2 percent.

As for the regions, Region 3 has 10 percent of the people laid off for 1 year. This percentage does not include the people laid off by the Interior Ministry. We are speaking of the people laid off by other government institutions. [end recording]

Of the 5,852 laid-off workers, 51 percent are from the government sector, 17 percent from the production sector, 2 percent from the agricultural and livestock sector, and 30 percent from the construction sector.

The EPS will make further adjustments in its budget in April and May. This was stated by Commander Daniel Ortega in noting that the lay-off and budget-reduction processes in ministries and government institutions have not yet concluded.

Ortega Cited on Feb Inflation Decline

PA0303182189 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Unattributed report on speech by President Daniel Ortega at a meeting of the National Council of Culture on 2 March; place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Daniel Ortega, who last night presented an optimistic evaluation of the government's anti-inflation plan, revealed that inflation in February was 45.8 percent. Ortega made these remarks at a ceremony reinstalling Father Ernesto Cardenal as the head of the National Council of Culture and Rosario Murillo as the council's secretary.

[Ortega] "In January we managed to reduce hyperinflation to 91.8 percent. We have now ended February with hyperinflation at 45.8 percent. However, we cannot feel satisfied yet. We are making substantial progress toward the goal we have set for ourselves, but we still have the pressure of hyperinflation."

President Ortega said we are continuing to feel the pressure of hyperinflation and we must thus intensify measures in March to prevent inflation from skyrocketing again. He expressed optimism, yet not complete satisfaction. In other words, the anti-inflation plan is working, but there are serious risks threatening it.

[Ortega] "Even if problems persist in agriculture and industry, which are the basis of our economy, at least it would no longer be an all-encompassing problem, such as we have now. This problem continues to be a heavy burden for us. It led to a deficit this month. To cover this deficit, we have to use funds that we should be using to develop other areas, such as production and investment."

The government continues to spend more than it takes in. In February, it received 62 billion cordobas and spent 99 billion. After presenting his report, Ortega reinstalled the National Council of Culture in its new term of office. The organization will serve as the Presidency's prime consulting agency in analyzing and approving global policies and plans regarding culture.

Government Announces New Agrarian Reform Law PA0603034989 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2213 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Managua, 5 Mar (REUTER)—Nicaraguan Agriculture Minister Commander Jaime Wheelock today announced a new agrarian reform law that guarantees land ownership and marks the end of land expropriation.

Minister Wheelock said the government will "guarantee people's property" with the new law and thus the country will go from "a phase of expropriation to a phase of consolidation of achievements."

Thousands of hectares of the country's best lands, owned by the Somoza family—which governed Nicaragua 1934-79—were confiscated by the government after the Sandinist triumph.

The Sandinist government also expropriated lands owned by followers of the previous government. "Those lands had been acquired under the protection of Somoza power." Those lands belonged to people who had been outside Nicaragua for over 6 months. Some of those lands were considered poorly farmed.

Because the Agriculture Ministry used informal and quick methods to classify lands as poorly farmed, producers began to distrust the government and production and investment decreased.

According to Wheelock, the new law will end those methods.

Wheelock added that the new law will include lands previously located in war zones or in areas visited by contras, and those located in unexplored areas.

Small rebel groups still operate in northern and eastern areas of the country with U.S. support.

Panama

U.S. Forces School Buses 'Retained' by Police PA0303164889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1513 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—A spokesman for the U.S. Army Southern Command charged today that eight buses transporting students to U.S. bases were "retained" by Panamanian policemen.

According to the source, the buses were taken by the Panama Defense Forces (PDF) to the Ancon traffic department on the outskirts of the capital, in a new case in the lengthy chain of incidents between the two countries.

The spokesman told ACAN-EFE that the students traveling on the buses were taken in other vehicles to their schools, and that so far he did not know why the buses were being "retained."

However, he noted that these buses had Panama license plates last year and now, because of the problems that have arisen in obtaining Panamanian license plates, the U.S. military authorities had decided to use U.S. Army Southern Command license plates on the buses.

Several FDP sources contacted by ACAN-EFE said they were unaware that the buses had been retained or the reason why.

Since 28 February, the Panamanian Government has demanded that all Panamanians and foreign residents show tax clearance certificates [paz y salvo] to obtain license plates. This measure was protested by the Panama Canal Commission as it "affects the operation of the interoceanic waterway, because many employees will not be able to report to their work sites."

In March 1988, the U.S. Government leveled strong economic sanctions against Panama. These measures included an order to U.S. companies and organizations based in the country not to pay taxes to the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega and acting President Manuel Solis Palma.

The confrontation between the governments of Panama and Washington affects the employees of U.S. companies and establishments, who are not receiving "tax clearance certificates" from the treasury. This prevents them from getting their 1989 vehicle license plates, among other things.

FDP, U.S. Officials Comment

PA0303180389 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 1559 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] FDP Traffic Department policemen this morning detained several school buses used by the U.S. Southern Command, apparently because of problems related to the buses' license plates. The buses, with the students inside, were detained in front of the Traffic Department facilities in the Ancon area. The students, however, were released several hours later.

[Begin recording] [FDP Captain Carlos Saldana, identified by caption] These school buses, owned by a private concern, bear U.S. Army license plates in an attempt to make them appear to be owned by the United States. However, this violates the Torrijos-Carter treaties. These vehicles had already been inspected in accordance with Traffic Department requirements, a fact attested to by the decals on their windshields. No new plates were issued for these buses, however, because the owner had not complied with the national paz y salvo requirement. So, in order to operate these vehicles the U.S. Army put their own plates on them; however, this constitutes a violation since the buses do not have valid plates.

[Reporter] How many buses have been detained?

[Saldana] These buses are still parked outside of the Traffic Department parking lot because, as far as I know, Major Thomas Mansfield of the Fort Clayton Military Police ordered soldiers at his command to remove the buses' keys. Major Mansfield also ordered the bus drivers not to turn over their drivers licenses and not to drive the buses into the Traffic Department's parking lot. Major Mansfield's instructions made it appear that we had kidnapped the children in these buses, but we delivered the children to the school principals and to the parents who came for them, since these students have nothing to do with compliance with the treaties. Maj Mansfield, however, has accused us of emotional terrorism. But this is his very personal opinion.

[Reporter] What will the Traffic Department do now?

[Saldana] At first, we only wanted to give them each a ticket for displaying improper plates. But Maj Mansfield interfered by ordering the drivers not to turn over their drivers licenses and not to take the vehicles to the department's parking lot. So, to clear the highway, we tried to use our cranes, but they positioned their military vehicles in front of our cranes to prevent us from removing the buses from the site. Every vehicle that obstructs a public highway must be towed away. [end recording]

We also interviewed Maj Rivera, of the U.S. Southern Command, who represents his country before the Combined Defense Board. This is Maj Rivera:

[Begin recording] [Rivera] This morning, the Traffic Department detained four Department of Defense buses with schoolchildren on board. The drivers of the buses have been given tickets. The drivers were ordered to hand over their official U.S. Government drivers licenses. They were also told to accept the tickets if their official drivers licenses were accepted by the traffic police. However, the traffic policemen wanted to have the Panama-issued drivers licenses. [Words indistinct] these buses are operated exclusively for the U.S. Southern Command. According to the treaties, U.S. Southern Command vehicles cannot be detained. [Words indistinct] the Southern Command has filed a strong protest with the Defense Board, saying that, according to the treaties, our official vehicles can move freely. This is the cause of the disagreement.

[Reporter] You do not think that you people have violated the treaties?

[Rivera] No. In addition, Article 9 of the treaties stipulates that no regulations can be passed to obstruct official U.S. Government functions related to the defense of the Canal. But we are constantly burdened with new regulations for getting new plates and other activities. All this has led to this morning's incident. [end recording]

FDP Issues 'Strong Protest'

PA0403015189 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Report on 3 March "protest note" from FDP Lieutenant Colonel Aquilino Sieiro, co-chairman of the Joint Committee, to U.S. Armed Forces Lieutenant Colonel Robert S. Perry, co-chairman of the Joint Committee]

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Robert S. Perry, co-chairman of the U.S. Armed Forces Joint Committee:

Sir: This letter is to express our strong protest over the violation of Article 21, Paragraph 3 of the agreement for compliance with Article 4 of the treaty signed by Major Alan Mansfield of the Military Police. The violation occurred today, 3 March, at approximately 0730 in the Curundu area when FDP Traffic Department units were issuing traffic violation tickets to the bus drivers who were contracted by the U.S. Armed Forces and who were carrying U.S. Armed Forces identification.

When the Traffic Department units were about to finish issuing tickets that had been accepted by the drivers, Maj Alan Mansfield arrived. With a haughty air, violating all codes of discipline and showing disrespect and a lack of consideration for the traffic inspectors, he blocked the buses' exit. He ordered the drivers to give him the keys and told them not to move the vehicles from the site.

The note of the co-chairman of the FDP Joint Committee adds: In view of this alarming and unjustified show of force by Maj Mansfield, the U.S. children on the buses became restless and nervous. Lt Col Perry, the U.S. counterpart, requested an urgent meeting of the Joint Committee. You were represented by Lieutenant Colonel Brown, who maliciously insinuated that the FDP was detaining buses and passengers.

Lt Col Perry, I must then conclude—Lt Col Aquilino Sieiro points out—that the U.S. counterpart has acted in a completely misinformed and hasty way and therefore with an obvious lack of professionalism. We are not surprised by the haughty attitude of Maj Mansfield, because he is already known as a hostile and rash man—and only the U.S. Armed Forces can explain why they keep this potentially dangerous man in such a sensitive position. What we cannot understand is why Lt Col Brown arrived at such a rash conclusion, saying that the FDP was detaining children who were going to school, [nor can we understand] the veiled threat conveyed in his words when he demanded an immediate answer and announced that Washington was waiting for a response.

Lt Col Perry: The Traffic Department units were performing their duty. The site where the buses were detained is not a defense site or a military coordination area. The buses were going to be detained only for the time it would take to issue tickets, according to normal procedures, and the passengers had nothing to do with this task. The detained buses belong to a contractor of

the U.S. Armed Forces and are not vehicles belonging to the U.S. Armed Forces. Therefore, in order to transit they must comply with Panamanian regulations, inasmuch as they are not exonerated from carrying Panamanian registration. That is a privilege that—according to the treaty—corresponds only to U.S. Armed Forces vehicles.

We reiterate our strong protest. The serious situation that arose can only be attributed to the undisciplined attitude of Maj Mansfield. We hope that you will analyze the events sensibly. We hope that the U.S. Armed Forces will not take advantage of this unimportant event to support the State Department's policy of internationally discrediting Panama, its rulers, and its FDP.

Yours truly,

[Signed] Lt Col Aquilino Sieiro Murgas, co-chairman of the Joint Committee, FDP, Republic of Panama

Police Arrest Son of Opposition Legislator

PA0303134789 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio
in Spanish 1215 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] This is a last-minute report: This morning at 0700, the home of Mendelson Correa, son of [opposition journalist] Omaira Correa, was raided. Five plainclothes police officers seized Mendelson Correa and threatened to seize a foreign cameraman's equipment if he continued filming the scene. As we have said, Mendelson Correa is legislator Omaira Correa's son.

The police officers said Mendelson Correa was being taken to the Attorney General's Office, but we have not yet been able to confirm this information.

Correa Released

PA0303181089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1738 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—James Wolford Correa—the son of Omaira Correa, whose nickname is Mayin and who is an opposition journalist and legislator—who was arrested early this morning by the police in his house in Panama City, was released at noon today, a source close to the family reported.

The source said that Wolford Correa was arrested by four plainclothes officers when they raided his house and seized a facsimile machine, papers, and several copies of a book written by his mother entitled "The Great White Rebellion."

Press sources reported that Wolford Correa was seen shortly after his release but that he refused to make any statements to the press "because he was very nervous."

The police have yet to issue a statement on the raid and the reasons for the arrest of the son of the journalist and legislator, who has been living in exile in Miami for the past year.

Mayin Correa, who is a dissident of the progovernment Labor Party (PALA), is a fierce opponent of the regime led by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces. Although she has parliamentary immunity, the judicial authorities have issued an arrest warrant against her.

Accused of 'Subversive' Acts

PA0303204289 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio
in Spanish 1902 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Today at noon James Wolford Mendelson Correa, son of legislator and journalist Omaira Correa, returned to his home. He had been taken to G-2 headquarters this morning by plainclothes police officers after they raided his home. After his release Mendelson Correa said he had been accused of subversive activities, adding that he was not mistreated at any time during his arrest.

[Begin recording] [Wolford] This morning, at about 0530, four officials from the Attorney General's Office arrived with a search warrant. I opened the door for them. They entered and found a facsimile machine and a book belonging to my mother. They asked me to go to the Attorney General's Office, but took me to G-2 headquarters instead. The district and defense attorneys arrived and asked me the necessary questions. I signed a declaration and was released. At no time was I mistreated. I was treated well. My rights were not denied. That was all. I was delayed because I was waiting for the attorney.

[Reporter] What reasons did the officials give you for this action?

[Wolford] They said I was in possession of subversive material.

[Reporter] Will any other actions follow? Have you been summoned, or does everything end here?

[Wolford] My lawyer is here if you wish to speak to him. I do not know if I have to return or if I will be summoned again. I only know what I have been accused of.

[Reporter] We really thank you for your statements. Our listeners have been waiting to hear what happened. [end recording]

Reportedly 'Confessed'

PA0403193089 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
4 Mar 89 p 5

["Scoops" column]

[Text] Mayin's [Legislator Omaira Correa] son confessed. He [James Wolford Mendelson Correa] said it all. There is proof once again that his mother is forcing him to do these things. Mayin does not seem to learn. She continues to play with fire.

U.S. Base Used To Ship Books

PA0503032089 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish
4 Mar 89 pp 5, 19

[Text] U.S. aggression against Panama was once again proved yesterday when 16 boxes containing subversive material were received through the Howard Air Force Base post office. The boxes were shipped from Miami.

According to Deputy District Attorney Mario Balasteros, the boxes were surreptitiously sent by Mrs Omaira "Mayin" Correa from Miami to her son James Wolford Correa, who was to pick them up and distribute them throughout the country.

The government official explained that the 16 boxes contained copies of a book entitled "The Great White Rebellion," a compilation of subversive leaflets periodically published in Miami by Mayin Correa.

A high-ranking Panama Defense Forces G-2 officer said that, in the presence of his lawyer Rodrigo Julio Molino Ortega, James Wolford Correa admitted that he had been assigned the task of picking up the subversive material sent into the country by his mother.

The same source added that Wolford Correa was selected to receive the secret shipment sent from Miami because he is a federal employee with the right to receive mail that is flown into Howard Air Force Base on military transport.

Wolford Correa, who was only detained for questioning, said he refused to pick up the books because he knew that according to U.S. and Panamanian laws this was illegal and that he and his wife could get into trouble. He therefore asked the person in charge of the Howard Air Force Base post office to have the boxes returned to sender.

In commenting on the matter, the high-ranking Military Intelligence officer said that James Wolford Correa, born in the United States of Panamanian parents, was provided with every legal right. He was allowed to make phone calls and to receive the assistance of his lawyer.

Wolford Correa was detained until he made and signed a statement before the deputy district attorney.

Solis Palma on Accomplishments, OAS Visit

PA0303001489 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 2318 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Interview with Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, following the opening of the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly at the Legislative Palace in Panama City on 1 March—recorded]

[Text] [Solis] I have said that despite the difficulties we have faced, our administration has actually been very successful. We have managed to survive one of the most

violent attacks Panama has ever been subjected to, and this from a country as large as the United States. Under those conditions, I believe that to have survived, to have resumed the country's development and other activities, to have kept the banks operating, and to have stopped the growing current of unemployment are very positive achievements. I wish to reiterate, however, that this effort, this achievement, was not just the work of the government and its government team; there was also the assistance of the mass organizations and government officials in general, who have continuously supported this struggle, which is so patriotic and so important to the country's future.

[Reporter] To what sectors will you direct your efforts in the remaining period of your Presidency?

[Solis] We will try to solve the vital problems of all sectors, but primarily those of the dispossessed, those who suffer the greatest poverty, and those who have no food, clothing, or shelter. We will direct our efforts toward those sectors. Perhaps we will not provide complete solutions, but we will begin to work toward that end.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the visit by the members of the OAS Human Rights Commission?

[Solis] I am still assessing this. They can come here and make whatever evaluations they wish. There is always the problem that some commissions are predisposed or biased toward a specific goal, but we do not fear this in any way. I believe I will meet with them on Friday. I am prepared to hear and answer any questions they wish to ask.

Just look at our neighbors. Look at other countries, and you will see whether human rights are respected in Panama. Rights were suspended here for a very particular, well-known reason: an uprising in the streets; people burning tires, blocking traffic, and creating unrest. We suspended civil liberties, but discotheques remained open, people continued to walk the streets, and there was no curfew. Normal life continued. We just limited abuses. But Panamanian Governments always have a very clear position regarding such things. The suspension of rights is simply a formality. In practice, the people's rights are still being protected.

You yourselves, who attack us every day and say inaccurate things every day, are given the opportunity to interview us.

Opposition Leaders Address 2 Mar Rally
PA0303161189 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio
in Spanish 1219 GMT 3 Mar 89

["Excerpts" of speeches by opposition leaders Tomas Herrera, of the Civic Crusade; Arnulfo Escalona, of the Authentic Liberal Party; Guillermo Ford, Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) second vice presidential candidate; Ricardo Arias Calderon, Christian Democratic Party president and ADOC first vice presidential candidate; and Guillermo Endara, ADOC presidential candidate, during a rally following a march in Panama City on 2 March—recorded]

[Text] [Herrera] To establish justice in this country, it is necessary to reorganize the Supreme Court of Justice and the Prosecutor General's Office. [cheers, applause] These agencies must cease to be obedient servants of the *military dictatorship and instruments of political persecution*. To have freedom in this country, we must fully exert our rights; exiles must be permitted to return immediately [applause]; political detainees—regardless of whether they have worn an uniform or not—must be released at once; the offices of labor and trade unions that are illegally occupied must be vacated and returned to their rightful owners; and the illegally closed media must be reopened immediately. [cheers, applause, crowd chants: "Justice, justice!"] To have democracy in Panama we must be able to exert our right to cast our votes freely, ballots must be honestly accounted for, and the Electoral Tribunal must be free from the shadow of the doubt cast on the 1984 elections, when fraud is suspected to have taken place.

[Escalona] In Panama, not only have human rights been denied, but also the guarantees of these rights, such as habeas corpus and constitutional writs of amparo. Individual rights have been eliminated. Freedom of worship was trampled upon in Chitre 3 days ago when Father Jose Majadas was taken away. [applause] You must know that plans to make us disappear were thwarted because the Chitre people rose up. The people of Chitre, still traumatized by the grief caused by the deaths of Hugo and Carmelo Spadafora, rose up and awakened the rest of the nation from the uncertain destiny to which others wanted to submit them. [applause] We are here to honor all those who have preceded us. On 7 May, you, your children, your neighbors, and your friends must cast your votes because such an action represents the defeat of the military dictatorship.

[Ford] The Panamanian people will never forgive the high treason of trying to subjugate the people. There will be no hate, rancor, or persecution here, but we will not easily forget all the suffering, misery, and hunger inflicted on the people, all of which has been attributed to the U.S. economic sanctions. Thieves! [applause] They have stolen material things, but they will never be allowed to steal our consciences.

[Arias Calderon] The key word is democracy. This is why we struggle for human rights. There can be no democracy without respect for human rights. We, who are today defending our human rights, hereby promise to respect the human rights of all Panamanians when we achieve power. [applause, cheers] I am thinking particularly about two groups of Panamanians who could not come here today to join us and demand respect for their human rights, which have been violated just as ours have been. I am thinking about public employees [applause] who do not enjoy the benefit of having career status, who are forced to be members of parties they repudiate, and who are no longer getting paid on time. In addition, instead of their 13th month bonus, they are being given promissory notes that are worth less than the paper they

are printed on. [applause] We promise to, and we will, respect the human rights of public employees by giving them career status, paying them on time in cash—including the 13th month bonus—and guaranteeing job stability. [applause]

I am also thinking about another group that cannot be here to demand its human rights. You will be surprised by its name: I refer to Panama Defense Forces members.

[Endara] Gentlemen, we must take into consideration that the dictatorship will not grant our rights or guarantee pure elections just like that. The Panamanian people must participate in these elections en masse and stay at the election sites to make sure every ballot is accounted for. [applause] This way, we will work for our own democracy. It is not they who will give us democracy; we ourselves will ensure our freedom and democracy. [applause] This is why, gentlemen, we ourselves must recover our human rights and justice without any foreign or outside interference. [applause] Gentlemen, we all must cast our votes on election day. All of us should take along our families, friends, acquaintances, and even those who we do not know to participate in the election process. This is a patriotic duty. Our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will be grateful for it. This way, all of us will be distinguished citizens in the new Republic. All of us will be looked upon proudly by our children and they will say: These are those who restored justice, liberty, and democracy in the new Republic. Thanks.

More on Visit by OAS Human Rights Commission

Meets Tribunal Members

PA0303011489 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 2315 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] In accordance with its schedule of interviews and meetings with all sectors, the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission [CIDH] met this morning with Electoral Tribunal magistrates to discuss matters relating to the organization and actual holding of the 7 May presidential elections.

The OAS delegation—whose purpose is to make recommendations to OAS member-states on defense of and respect for the human rights of citizens—is headed by Leo Valladares Lanza, who is accompanied by Oliver Jackman and Dr Berta Santos C. They were received by Magistrates Yolando Pulice de Rodriguez, Aurelio Correa, Luis Carlos Chen, and Secretary General Carlos Bonilla.

After several hours of discussion behind closed doors in the Tribunal's conference room, Leo Valladares Lanza, a Honduran, told the press about the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Valladares] You understand that an election process involves many, many details. We have a general understanding of what it consists of and we would like to see that all the legal provisions are actually complied with, because free elections are a basic requirement of a democratic system. A democratic system requires unrestricted respect for human rights.

[Reporter] Do conditions for free elections currently exist in Panama?

[Valladares] We have been analyzing only the matter of election mechanisms. We asked about the resources available to the people, such as the right to vote, the use of the media, and election propaganda. We have been given very reasonable answers, but much depends on the actual fulfillment of those provisions.

[Reporter] How can you reconcile free elections in Panama with the closure of some media and the existence of political exiles?

[Valladares] Obviously the closure of some media and the expatriation of some citizens do not constitute the best climate for an election process. [end recording]

Electoral Tribunal President Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez then held a news conference in which she answered various questions regarding the opposition parties' charges of irregularities in the election process:

[Begin Pulice recording] How often have we said that the Electoral Tribunal gives copies of the electoral registries to the political parties? They could see irregularities in the electoral registry because I give it to them and they review it. I give them 30, 40, or 50 copies like these to be distributed among party members in all the provinces. They can see if a name is misspelled or if someone does not reside where indicated. They have the expiration dates set by the Electoral Code.

Every day I tell them about the expiration dates for presenting challenges. Therefore, how can we talk about fraud, if the people at the voting tables will not act as members of the Electoral Tribunal but as members of political parties? Your question about fraud bothers me because you always ask it in a disagreeable way. [end recording]

The OAS Human Rights Commission continued its visit at the Legislative Assembly, where it met with the assembly officers. The commission is expected to meet tomorrow with Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

Requests Spadafora Inquiry

PA0303213189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2013 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Panama City, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The OAS mission that is evaluating the human rights situation in Panama and was received by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], today asked that the 1985 murder of former Panamanian guerrilla Hugo Spadafora be "exhaustively" investigated. The request for the investigation was presented to Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma, who also received the commission.

After meeting for over 2 hours with the OAS delegates, Gen Noriega said the meeting was "positive." Noriega, who had a wound on his forehead that an official source said had resulted from a blow "from a sharp object" while practicing karate, described the meeting as "totally positive." The mission was also received by the entire FDP General Staff. The Panamanian military commander said "we have taken this mission as seriously as is appropriate" in this case.

According to CIDH President Marco Tulio Bruno Celli, Gen Noriega "promised absolute cooperation with the OAS mission."

Noriega said "it should be made known that Panama asked for the presence of this mission, because we thought that any abuse of individual rights that may occur is the result of a reaction against the violations of our territory," presumably by the United States.

The CIDH president said the topics discussed with the military included the election campaign, the fairness of the 7 May elections, and the need for greater cooperation with the OAS mission, particularly regarding the election campaign.

The CIDH president said the problem of "political exiles" was also brought up with the military. The OAS mission asked that the media closed by the authorities last year be reopened, particularly now that an election campaign is in progress.

Bruni Celli said he also asked Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Panamanian Presidency, "to thoroughly investigate" the murder of Hugo Spadafora, a former Panamanian guerrilla who opposed Gen Noriega. His headless body was found in Costa Rica in 1985 a short distance from the Panamanian border.

The OAS official said he reiterated to Solis Palma that Panama should "accept the mandatory jurisdiction of the OAS Inter-American Court of Human Rights to hear the case of Spadafora's murder."

Bruni Celli, heading the OAS mission visiting Panama, said after meeting with Solis Palma that he mentioned to Solis reports of "alleged human rights violations."

The reports discussed by Bruni Celli and Solis included "illegal detentions, mistreatment of detainees, delayed trials, and rejected writs of habeas corpus."

Celli said the talks with Solis at the Presidential Palace this morning were "frank and direct without any restrictions." Solis promised "to help us resolve many of the pending problems," Celli concluded.

More on Noriega Meeting

PA0403005189 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio
in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Among the recommendations made by the CIDH to the Panamanian Government were an exhaustive investigation of the Hugo Spadafora case and the reopening of the closed media.

The CIDH ended its analysis on the Panamanian situation today. In the last day of its visit the top commission members, who are responsible for safeguarding human rights, held an interesting meeting with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces. The long-awaited meeting was held at FDP headquarters, and the CIDH delegation headed by Marco Tulio Bruno Celli was received by the commander in chief along with the chiefs of staff.

The time had come for the commission to listen to answers to a large number of reports it had received on human rights violations in Panama. Following long hours of discussion and an exchange of viewpoints, while the national and international media waited, Gen Noriega himself had this to say about the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Noriega] The meeting was very positive because of the seriousness of the commission and the truthfulness of our statements.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the commission to Gen Noriega in this case?

[Noriega] We have taken it seriously and we will take it into account so that, working together with the government, we may find solutions. It should be known that Panama, through OAS Ambassador Roberto Leyton, requested the presence of this commission because we believe the aggression and the violation of human rights are the product of a reaction against U.S. violations of our territory. This situation has led to a violation of human rights.

[Reporter] What points did you discuss, general?

[Noriega] The commission members will explain it to you. [end recording]

CIDH President Marco Tulio Bruno Celli gave his viewpoint:

[Begin recording] [Celli] We have had the opportunity to meet with Gen Noriega, to whom we made some observations regarding the reports the commission received during and before the visit.

[Reporter] What was the specific topic on the agenda?

[Celli] We talked about different topics, such as the election process and the need to have clean, legitimate elections. We talked about reports we received before and during our visit. We talked about greater cooperation between the Panamanian Government and the CIDH. We discussed the possibility of doing a follow-up on the commission's activities, especially during the election process currently taking place in Panama. [end recording]

Just as the commission had promised, once its inspection work ended it held a news conference in which it announced the recommendations made to the Panamanian Government to have a better climate for the respect of human rights. These are the details:

[Begin Celli recording] As for Panamanian citizen Hugo Spadafora Franco, whose assassination was the object of Resolution No 2587 of 23 September 1987, the CIDH requested that the Panamanian Government conduct an exhaustive and impartial investigation of the incidents that have been reported.

Likewise, the CIDH believes the election process that has begun and which should end with the elections on 7 May is an excellent opportunity to resolve Panama's political difficulties. [end recording]

Visit Ends; 2 Prisoners Freed

*PA0303214989 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio
in Spanish 2100 GMT 3 Mar 89*

[Live report by RPC Radio News Director Omayra de Leon de Watson from the Ejecutivo Hotel in Panama City]

[Text] Good afternoon. We are at the Ejecutivo Hotel in Panama City, the temporary headquarters of the CIDH visiting Panama. The members of that commission just held a news conference announcing the end of their visit to Panama. They also disclosed the issues they discussed with the Panamanian Government.

One of the most important points discussed at the news conference held by the CIDH is the announcement of the release in the next few hours of two Panamanian detainees. One detainee is Professor Diana del Rio de Batres, who teaches at the Gaston Faraudo P. Accounting and Commercial School. Batres was arrested last year. She is a relative of Moises del Rio, one of the military men arrested last year. The other detainee to be released is Eng Sanchez Pena. He and Batres are both ill.

That was the announcement made by the CIDH president during a news conference at the end of the group's visit to Panama.

The members of the commission also mentioned some of the issues they brought up with the government, including the requests for a more thorough investigation of the Hugo Spadafora case, the holding of clean and free elections, the reopening of the media, and the return of the people who are in exile for political reasons.

Oswaldo Velasquez, president of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee, told RPC that he was pleased with the CIDH visit and described it as excellent.

It is important to note that during the news conference, some Panamanian progovernment media newsmen asked the CIDH president to make statements about what these journalists called the U.S. aggression against Panama, which they said is harming the Panamanian population.

These are brief details on the news conference that just ended. The CIDH announced the end of its visit to Panama in that news conference. The visit began on 27 February and concluded today with a meeting with Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, FDP commander.

The CIDH members said they had received many documents and reports that they will now study, after which they will present their report to the OAS.

We repeat: The CIDH has ended its visit to Panama with the announcement of the release in the next few hours of Diana del Rio de Batres and Sanchez Pena.

LA PRENSA Visit Refused

*PA0403182889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1720 GMT 4 Mar 89*

[Text] Panama City, 4 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The OAS delegation that visited Panama to investigate the human rights situation "vigorously" protested the government's refusal to allow the delegation members to visit the installations of the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, which was closed by the authorities more than 1 year ago.

The CIDH delegates said that they made "repeated requests" to the government to visit LA PRENSA facilities, which have been under police control since they were closed.

In a press communique, the delegation noted that "at the last minute, the government refused to grant this authorization."

The delegation "vigorously" protested this action, which is "a violation of the terms of the agreement existing with the Panamanian Government," in the sense that the government said it would permit visits to the places the commission members felt were relevant, the press communique issued today stressed.

The communique listed several recommendations made to the Panamanian Government for free elections and urged the authorities to "prohibit practices that violate human rights."

The delegation, headed by CIDH President Marco Tulio Bruni Celli, ended its 5-day visit yesterday. During this visit the delegation met with Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the FDP.

When local reporters asked the CIDH president about the U.S. "aggression" against Panama, Bruni Celli categorically refused to comment, because, he said, "we are not here to judge the United States."

The progovernment media today complained that the delegation refused to "investigate the effects of the U.S. aggression."

Regime Plans ICJ Suit Against U.S. Army
PA0403024689 Panama City MEDIUM in Spanish
3 Mar 89 p 2

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Aquilino Sieiro has announced that the Panamanian Government plans to denounce and file a suit against the U.S. Army at the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and at the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. The suit is over the death of a minor and injuries sustained by two others when an unexploded round left behind by Southern Command troops went off.

Sieiro, who serves as liaison between the Panama Defense Forces and the Southern Command, was referring to an incident on 28 February in which 17-year-old Agustin Cruz was killed near the Nuevo Emperador firing range as he was collecting scrap metal.

The officer also accused the Southern Command of "irresponsibly leaving behind explosives everywhere."

Sieiro added that he would not be surprised if members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed along the Panama Canal now claim that Cruz was trying to attack U.S. installations.

FDP Official on 'Espionage,' 'Provocations'
PA0503190489 Paris AFP in Spanish 1720 GMT
5 Mar 89

[Text] Panama City, 5 Mar (AFP)—Colonel Aquilino Sieiro, chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces Combined Board, today charged the U.S. Army with espionage and provocations.

"We have had many incidents recently involving U.S. soldiers in barracks and high security installations," Col Sieiro told AFP in Panama City.

The Combined Board is an intergovernment organization created by the 1977 Panama Canal treaties that is in charge of evaluating civilian and military relations with the U.S. Army, which has approximately 10,000 soldiers in Panama.

According to Sieiro, strong Panamanian protests "have had little effect on them since they continue their provocations all over the country."

Approximately 12 U.S. soldiers have been arrested near Panamanian military bases in the last 7 months.

Captain David Costello's alleged "espionage" activities has been the most publicized case. He was caught with maps and binoculars near Tocumen Military Base, 13 km east of the capital.

Nevertheless, U.S. Southern Command authorities said the arrest was "illegal" and insisted that the officer "was only bird-watching with his binoculars."

Sieiro also said today that Panama will file a lawsuit against the U.S. Army, possibly at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, for leaving explosives in jointly used areas, which has resulted in the deaths of three Panamanians in the last 7 months.

Panamanian authorities have on various occasions denounced activities on the nine military installations maintained here by the United States for the canal's defense, which Panamanian officials have said are used to spy on Latin American armies and to train mercenary forces and Nicaraguan "contras."

According to Sieiro, "many military activities" and the illegal enlargement of several landing strips have been detected in Fort Sherman, approximately 130 km north-east of the capital.

In addition, the high-ranking officer stated that the U.S. Army owes approximately \$41 million to the Panamanian Government.

More on Suspension of Services to U.S. Troops
PA0103201389 Panama City MIEDIA in Spanish
28 Feb 89 p 2

[Text] Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez has reported that because the U.S. Armed Forces' delinquency in rent payments in reverted areas is extremely high, he is supporting a suspension of their utility and telephone service in Panama City and Colon.

"Our government cannot allow these utility and telephone charges and the rent to not be paid. If we demand this from our citizens, why not demand it from foreigners?" Bermudez said, referring to the suspension of these services in some houses in the reverted areas.

Because of the measure taken by Panamanian authorities, U.S. soldiers have vacated these houses and moved to ones on military bases.

Noriega Meets With Local Leaders in Veraguas
PA0303123789 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1727 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, to a group of local corregimiento representatives in Veraguas—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...of what we had done previously on two other occasions in plenary sessions. However, the method of communication was more difficult because of the number of participants. The present method suggested by Fermin [not further identified] is more practical. We have more time to listen, more time for more people to speak and to reach conclusions.

We insist that the basic organization of the people's government, the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives—despite the political modifications made to it since 1972, as were previously mentioned—continues to be the basic cell, the vital part of community development and the structural (?center) of the people's government.

I said in Santo Domingo, Los Santos Province that we members of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] found that, as part of our working plan, it was easier to communicate through the various representatives in order to tend to the communities' needs because the corregimiento system has a military-type structure and working pattern that is equivalent to that of a combat squad. In other words, the field of operations is dominated by the leader of the community, who is the corregimiento representative. Thus, this cell is the basic working unit.

The community is also the basic unit of our civic action development activities. It is there that the problem takes on greater magnitude, greater specialization. It is also there that the task is more feasible, because it is not a job

that competes with any private enterprise. In general, it is not a job that is carried out in the urban areas, capitals, or larger towns. In most cases, the activities are carried out in corregimientos that are geographically distant from the political capital of the province. This means that in addition to geographic distance, they are isolated from economic support. For this reason, our system for development involves working with the communities. That is why we defend that system.

We believe that the voice of the poor has been silenced in the name of democracy, that the participation of the communities has been diminished and paralyzed. We believe that the resumption of this experiment... [changes thought] So far, nobody here in Panama can prove that it does not work and nobody here in Panama has been able to show as yet that those people who were called fools failed to be the best at developing their communities. Here in Panama, no one has denied that although other political legislative structures have emerged, the basic unit of development continues to be the communities, the honorable representatives, the representatives who broach the problem or complaint so that the corresponding legislation or law can be drafted to solve the problem.

Consequently, our system, as the FDP's doctrine for development, is based on the premise that the most important pillar for the development of a community is the leader who is the representative of the basic cell, the corregimiento. Together, all the corregimientos represent the solution of the problem or the resolution of a community's demands.

We feel that without the corregimientos, or without the development of the corregimientos, it would be impossible for basic products to be exported. Production itself would be halted. Development in health and education would be abandoned. Therefore, we need to perfect the connections between the legislative branch, the legislature, the parliament, and the units consisting of leaders who, as members of an assembly of representatives, are the ones who can describe the real situation in a community and pressure the legislature to meet a need. I believe that in a new government, we must destroy old structures that were successful at a particular moment in history but that have been made obsolete by the very evolution of problems, of mankind, and of needs.

Among the new government's basic plans should be the reorganization of the Assembly of Representatives into an organization that takes an active interest in all community problems. [applause] I believe that listening to problems and solving them is a new step toward true liberation, including the liberation of our sovereignty, but with each community's contribution to production and development. I also believe that this reorganization, which I have long promoted, should include the establishment of a headquarters for the honorable representatives, where they can air and discuss the community's problems. [applause]

Consequently, a representative's effectiveness depends on individuals who are knowledgeable about the mechanisms of popular representation and community leadership. There may be new candidates, (?improvised) candidates, candidates, and candidates' candidates. [sentence as heard] [Words indistinct] community representatives, however, [words indistinct] have seen a series of changes, have been involved, and are capable of discussing aqueduct plans, road repairs, or school repairs with planning technicians. They are proven leaders who will be respected in their communities.

Communities are wise and people are wise; leaders cannot be improvised or created through spontaneous combustion. You cannot say to someone: You are going to be a leader. Leaders are made by communities, by working in the communities. They are created by their own sensibilities and by their capabilities. A community leader need not attend universities or possess titles. The only titles the communities require of them are social sensibility and defense [words indistinct] with solutions for the communities. [applause]

I say once again that the communities are the fundamental link between the FDP doctrine and its work. The FDP has worked with the communities and considers them the foundation of leadership. They are the foundation of leadership (?during political times,) [word indistinct], before and during political times, and continues to work without ever giving up politics—even after the political struggle has ended. [applause]

[Words indistinct] FDP members is nothing but the habit of working with leaders and communities, the habit of being involved in the community's development, the sum total of which is no more beneficial to the opposition than to the government. This development benefits needy children and women; it is not limited to any one sector. [applause]

When Civic Action builds a bridge, it does not hang a sign on it saying: Only progovernment individuals can cross here. When an aqueduct is built, it carries no sign saying: This water is for progovernment people and not for the opposition. The FDP's work, the Civic Action's work, is promoted by leaders like yourselves. Eighty-seven percent of the work we have on the G-5's computers have been promoted by community leaders, by leaders from various corregimientos who have petitioned, pressured, and acted as spokesmen for their communities.

Communities and people do not forget this. You may emerge today as a candidate to represent a community, but the people will investigate your background and ask: Where were you when we needed water? Where were you when we needed medicine, a school, when the church was built, when the bridge collapsed, when the road was built, when I needed a helicopter to transfer a pregnant woman? That leader is not here. [applause]

The FDP has worked with winning leaders because the community wins every time the FDP works with it and for it without receiving any benefits, without creating any additional expenses for the government, using our men, working without a schedule. The community knew that it would be required to contribute room and board for the FDP, and our soldiers knew that they would contribute their expertise and time during periods when so many projects were under way.

When material was very limited, the FDP was always present in the communities. I believe I have thus destroyed the people's fear [of the FDP], and I would like to destroy their doubts. I would like to quote the words or phrase of La Mesa representative Vargas. Vargas said that he can return to his community to make demands because he had gained honor. I believe all of you are honorable leaders because you represent honorable communities. [applause]

I wish to make my point clear. The Assembly of Representatives' defense is very important. You will defend it yourselves, and through you it will be defended by the communities that believe in you and your legacy of work. I believe the reorganization of the Assembly of Representatives is very important and interesting because it will dissolve the new government's traditional structures. I believe that the legislature should also be reorganized and linked to the Assembly of Representatives. The technicians involved should seek such a mechanism. [applause]

I believe that the value of the new representatives here will be based upon their ability to establish a headquarters that will immediately increase the corregimiento representatives' stature, importance, and self-esteem. I also believe that when the community representatives' powers were limited in the name of democracy, the community's efforts to reach and to reorganize the central government were also limited, silenced, and distanced in the name of democracy.

I believe that with good future planning, this Assembly of Representatives will become a system through which Panama will attempt to solve such priorities as health, education, and road problems, which are basically the areas that generate farming loans, etc., etc. These three areas form a triangle upon which the community bases its pressure on the central government and the Central Bank. The central government's work would thus be facilitated and its expenses lessened.

The representatives should also create a mechanism whereby they can work, coordinate, and (?raise or reject issues) with their province's legislator, who is the sum total of all of you counted vote by vote. [applause]

Over the past few days there has been much talk about fraud, tricks, and so forth. I believe, however, that by constantly using the word fraud, by insulting and slandering others with political phrases that denote tricks

and fraud, the individuals in question are insulting each one of you. They are insulting your capabilities and leadership in your communities. Players who believe they have already lost, who are planning to throw in the towel, or who tear up the cards to avoid having to play any more are the ones who talk about fraud and tricks. [applause]

Reportage on Solis Palma's Trip to Japan

Meets Takeshita, New Emperor

PA2802220989 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] The Panamanian Government and people expressed their condolences to new Japanese Emperor Akihito, who received greetings from Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, and Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter at the Imperial Palace. Distinguished international political figures attended Emperor Hirohito's funeral, which has been the most important diplomatic event in Japanese history.

In talks with Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita, the Panamanian delegation discussed topics of mutual interest. On behalf of the Japanese Government and people, the prime minister expressed thanks for the Panamanian gesture of ordering that flags be flown at half-mast the day of Emperor Hirohito's funeral.

Return, Comments Reported

PA0103191289 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] On his return from Japan, Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma told the press he was pleased by the great treatment he received from the Japanese authorities, including Emperor Akihito, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Liberal Party leader Shin Kanemaru, Industrial Bank President K. Ikeura, and other distinguished businessmen and industrialists.

Solis Palma arrived at the Panama Air Force terminal at midnight after a brief stopover in Mexico, where local and foreign press interviewed him. He said that high-ranking figures of the Japanese economic, trade, and political sectors expressed great interest in strengthening diplomatic and trade relations and that to accomplish this the understandings that exist between Japan and Panama will be under review in the next few days.

Concerning his discussions with the Japanese emperor and prime minister, Solis Palma indicated that they discussed the Panama Canal, a possible third set of locks, and the widening of the Culebra Cut, topics independent of the frictions that have emerged between Panama and the United States and that have been discussed in the tripartite commission, whose goal is to benefit the world.

The Panamanian chief of government stressed that Japan has shown great interest in the canal and its modernization, a task in which Panamanian and Japanese technicians will be involved, without omitting the U.S. opinion in this aspect.

Regarding his participation at Emperor Hirohito's funeral, President Solis Palma said he was accorded the special treatment given to all the presidents who attended this internationally important event. This shows that Japan, a great industrial power, recognizes the legitimacy of the Panamanian president despite the efforts by other powerful nations to prevent this recognition.

On his arrival in Panama, President Manuel Solis Palma and his small delegation were welcomed by the entire cabinet, politicians, the Defense Forces general staff, and friends. He immediately returned to his heavy agenda, which includes his speech at the opening of the Legislative Assembly tomorrow at 1700.

Assembly President Meets ANC Representative

PA2702235789 Panama City Televisora Nacional
in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Ruth Mompoti, member of the African National Congress [ANC] National Secretariat, today met with Panamanian Legislative Assembly President Celso Carrizo. Nelson Mandela, who has been in jail since 1962 for his political activities to end apartheid in South Africa, also belongs to the ANC. Carrizo invited Mompoti to visit our country when they met in Managua during the opening of the Nicaraguan National Assembly's fifth session.

Carrizo gave Mompoti a resolution expressing the solidarity of the Panamanian people and Government with the South African people's struggle for total independence.

Mompoti said that although Nelson Mandela has been in jail for over 25 years, his spirit is present in each youth who struggles for Mandela's ideals. Mompoti also spoke about her people's solidarity with the Panamanian people and Government:

[Begin Mompoti recording in English with superimposed translation into Spanish] We can talk about the possibilities for peace in Central America. We can also talk about [words indistinct] Central American unity. [Words indistinct] the end of the war in Nicaragua, [words indistinct] to prevent the imminent [words indistinct] Panama [words indistinct]. The United States is only interested in how it can profit from all this.

[Words indistinct] that peace is spreading and that unity is increasing [words indistinct]. Before saying farewell, let me send a message to [word indistinct] president [words indistinct] and tell him that [words indistinct] to

have attended these sessions. In addition, I send a message from my people to the Panamanian people, legislators, and women. [end recording]

Slight Decline in Colon Free Zone Business
PA2702165789 Panama City Telemetro Television
in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Summary] Ernesto Fernandez, member of the Association of Colon Free Zone Users, has reported that business activity continues to decline in the Colon Free Zone

but that businessmen continue to promote business. Fernandez added that business in January 1988 amounted to approximately \$347.7 million, compared to \$347.1 million in January 1989, which reflects a decline of 0.2 percent.

Bolivia

President Appoints Four New Ministers

PY0403144589 La Paz La Red Panamericana
in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] President Victor Paz Estenssoro yesterday appointed four new ministers following the resignation of Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez, Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran, Transport and Communications Minister Andres Petricevic Raznatovic, and Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Juan Franklin Anaya Vasquez. These ministers resigned to participate in the national election as candidates for the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

President Paz Estenssoro announced the designations of Valentin Abecia, Eduardo Perez Beltran, (Roberto Roca Iriarte), and (Alfonso Balderrama) as foreign minister, interior minister, housing and urban affairs minister, and transport and communications minister, respectively.

The secretary read the following presidential decree:

Article 1. The following citizens are appointed to the following portfolios:

Valentin Abecia as foreign relations and worship minister; Eduardo Perez Beltran as interior, migration, and justice minister; Engineer (Alfonso Balderrama Maldonado) as transport and communications minister; and (Roberto Roca Iriarte) as housing and urban affairs minister.

Later, President Paz Estenssoro said the government wants to fulfill the main objectives of the new economic policy and strengthen the democratic system through clean and honest elections:

[Begin Paz recording] The executive branch will maintain its impartiality throughout the electoral process so the Bolivian people can exercise their sovereignty as established by the Constitution and express their decision in total freedom. My government wants to bequeath a lesson of exemplary civic behavior to future generations.

We want to continue implementing the present policies in the remaining 5 months of this mandate. We do not have time to introduce reforms or last-minute changes. Our government has always been serious and responsible, and we cannot implement policy changes in the final stages of our mandate [end recording].

Then Foreign Minister Valentin Abecia, on behalf of the new ministers and the cabinet, praised the president and his government's record.

[Begin Abecia recording] Mr President, before your government we were living in a period of political instability that prevented the establishment of democratic coexistence. At present, however, we perceive that people are behaving with maturity and are walking a

path toward the full implementation of a state of law that will allow the country to move toward a process of economic development within a framework of respect for human beings. Our commitment is to peace, freedom, political pluralism, and an enriching dialogue to achieve agreements and development. [end recording]

The president thanked the ministers who were leaving the cabinet and wished them luck in their political activities. The new ministers will be installed on 6 March. They will continue to implement the same policies the executive branch has implemented since 1985.

MIR Denounces 'Plot' Against Candidate

PY0403151389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2158 GMT
3 Mar 89

[Text] La Paz, 3 Mar (EFE)—The Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) today denounced a plot against the life of former Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora, who is a presidential candidate. The MIR is one of the parties that hope to win the presidential elections in May.

MIR Secretary General Oscar Eid Franco said that in the past few days Paz Zamora has been harassed and has received death threats by telephone. Eid added that Paz Zamora's car is being constantly followed, and that his house and his party's headquarters are under surveillance.

"This leads to the conclusion that there is a plot against the life of Paz Zamora," Eid said.

Eid stated that on 26 February and on 3 March, groups of hooded armed men raided the "Multicom" publishing office, which is being used by the MIR political campaign. The individuals took away files containing pictures, documents, and publishing material, as well as photographic equipment worth \$40,000.

Eid said that Interior Ministry officials—who follow the orders of Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, the presidential candidate of the ruling MNR party—are responsible for these attacks. He added that Sanchez de Lozada "has publicly declared an all-out war against the MIR during his political campaign."

Eid concluded by saying: "We appeal to the conscience of the public in view of these attacks, and we reiterate that the MIR has expressed its firm support for a peaceful election."

Police Commander Armando Sandagorda said an investigation is under way to determine those responsible for the raid on the offices of the publishing agency, which was contracted by the MIR.

Social Defense Under Secretariat Resigns

PY0403154789 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] The energetic and honest application of government policies to fight drug trafficking that was carried out by the Social Defense Under Secretariat has placed Bolivia in good international standing.

This remark was made by Jorge Alderete Rosales, who summarized the accomplishments of his secretariat upon tendering his irrevocable resignation.

Alderete said his secretariat performed in an outstanding manner during 1988 because during this year the structure of the organizations to fight drug trafficking were consolidated. The secretariat was enhanced and achieved great credibility in the international arena, he said, because the country conveyed the impression that it was seriously involved in the struggle to control drug trafficking.

This is what Alderete said:

[Begin recording] We have done a lot, but there is a lot more to be done. This is a war that will take some years to conclude. However, I think we have established the basic structure, the legal basis [words indistinct] to combat drug manufacturing and trafficking. Today we are better prepared to combat this scourge. [end recording]

Alderete said that 1988 was a good year because police seized and burned large quantities of drugs, arrested major drug traffickers, destroyed factories, and improved the infrastructure of the secretariat.

Last year police seized over 9 tons of drugs, burned nearly 10 tons, destroyed 1,431 factories, and arrested 887 individuals involved in drug trafficking. The list includes Roberto Perez Gomez; Rosa Ambrusia Romero C., alias Chola Rosa; Rosa Angulo Fernandez, alias La Chota Rosa; Mario Araus Morales, alias [words indistinct].

January-February Inflation Reaches 1 Percent

PY0403155189 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] According to the National Institute of Statistics, INE, the accrued inflation rate for the first 2 months of the year reached 1 percent. According to the report, the consumer price index is calculated taking into account the prices of 161 basic consumer articles.

Colombia

UP Leader Killed, Senator Samper Wounded

PA0403003789 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0007 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] A leader of the Communist Party [UP], Jose Antequera, was shot 13 times and killed this afternoon during an attack at the El Nacional boarding area of Eldorado Airport.

Senator Ernesto Samper was also wounded in this attack. Although the doctors who are treating him at the El Nacional Clinic say Samper is out of danger, he is in very critical condition, since he was hit by at least five bullets.

Also killed in the attack were Assistant Attorney General Manuel Rodriguez and an unidentified person. It is not known whether the latter was one of the assassins or a luckless traveller, because he had an airline ticket in his pocket.

Several other people were also wounded: Oscar de Jesus Meolla, Agustin Pena, and Alfonso Guzman, all bodyguards, and two Panamanian girls aged 3 and 5, who were shot in the legs.

Rallies Banned, Schools Closed

PA0603035689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0303 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Bogota, 5 Mar (AFP)— Bogota's mayor has imposed a dry law, banned demonstrations, and decreed the closing of schools tomorrow in the Colombian capital to prevent disturbances during the funeral of Communist youth leader Jose Antequera, who was killed here on 3 March.

According to the communique signed by Andres Pastrana, the measures "are shared and supported by the national government." The decree specifies the route to be followed by the funeral procession through a distant avenue on the western side of the city. It calls on citizens to work normally and prevent situations that could disrupt public order.

The dry law will be in effect from midnight tonight until noon on 7 March. Meanwhile, there will be no classes at public and private schools and universities in Bogota tomorrow.

However, shortly after the decree was announced, Boris Cabrera, national coordinator of the Patriotic Union (UP, legal communist), of which Antequera was vice president, told a television newscast UP rejects the official measures.

Cabrera said that "UP does not accept instructions on how it should bury its dead." However, he expressed his desire to talk with Pastrana to obtain his permission to take the coffin to Bolivar Plaza, downtown Bogota.

The police and Army began patrolling Bogota and other cities early this evening to prevent any incidents.

Communist Leader Forero, Wife Murdered

PA0203165489 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Democracy suffered another blow last night with the assassination of communist leader Teofilo Forero, his wife, and another comrade. As if it were an

omen, Forero had written an editorial that was to appear in the weekly newspaper VOZ that discussed the dirty war, which trapped him last night.

Disturbances lasted until the early morning in Bogota's Policarpa Salvatierra neighborhood by Communist Party sympathizers protesting the murder of Teofilo Forero, Communist Party organizational national secretary, who was killed last night by hired killers in the Santa Isabel neighborhood. Police remain on alert ready to control any disturbances that might occur. Also killed in the attack were his wife Leonil de Mora de Forero and Jose Antonio Sotelo, Communist Party secretary general in Cordoba Department. They were gunned down while entering a restaurant. According to witnesses, they were attacked by three individuals on motorcycles. [passage omitted]

Government, M-19 Rebel Group Plan Talks

Meeting Interrupted

PA0403011889 Bogota Inravisión Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 0025 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] The meeting between the Colombian Government and the M-19 started at last in Mexico City at 1330 today. M-19 Commander Antonio Navarro said when he arrived that he was optimistic about the meeting. He denied the M-19 has internal differences over the new peace process.

[Begin Navarro recording] The only division in the M-19 is the division of labor; we all do a part of it [words indistinct]. In any case, the M-19 has traditionally been a determined organization. Everyone has the same goal: bringing peace to Colombia. [end recording]

M-19 Commander Gerardo Ardila explained the M-19's plans for disbanding and joining the legal political system:

[Begin Ardila recording] We announce to the country that 12 M-19 political spokesmen will start to work on this process in the upcoming days. [end recording]

The rebels arrived at the Camino Real Hotel at 1330. When they entered the conference room, they were surprised by more than 30 newsmen and photographers who cared little about the secrecy agreement made by both sides. The rebels were again surprised 3 hours later, when they were informed of Patriotic Union leader Jose Antequera's death and Senator Ernesto Samper Pizano's serious injury. The participants suspended the meeting temporarily until they learned more details about the situation. The third round of negotiations and first work session held in a foreign country between the government and the M-19 will probably end tomorrow afternoon. The two sides will sign a communiqué in which they will attempt to make progress in the new peace process.

Talks To Continue, Recess Called

PA0403170789 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevisión
Television in Spanish 1303 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Report on exclusive interview with 19 April Movement leader Antonio Navarro in Mexico City; no date given—recorded]

[Text] Jose Antequera, leader of the leftist coalition Patriotic Union [UP], was murdered during an attack at the Bogota International Airport. Liberal Party presidential hopeful Ernesto Samper, who was with the UP leader, was wounded. The possible perpetrators of the attack have not as yet been identified.

The announcement sparked a number of disturbances in the Colombian capital. Protest demonstrations extended from the UP headquarters to the Policarpa Salvatierra neighborhood in the southern section of Bogota. In response, the police have mounted additional patrols in the capital and other strategic areas.

The events in Colombia led to the suspension of the peace negotiations between the 19 April Movement, M-19, and Colombian Government representatives. Both sides have consulted with their leaders regarding breaking off the dialogue, which is intended to establish peace in Colombia.

[Begin Navarro recording] In a country like Colombia, where it seems people are no longer surprised by anything, reports on the attack in Bogota aroused deep concern. In fact, we feel as if a dark and terrible resolve has arisen against our efforts to bring hope to this country, which from death to death and year to year is sinking into a pit. By talking to the government, we have made a greater effort than the government itself. We are the ones who are sacrificing our lives. We have always sacrificed ourselves, because it is our desire to bring real peace, which our country so greatly desires. I believe the government must calmly reflect on the current situation and that is why we decided today—in view of recent events—to allow the government's representatives to consult with their government while we consulted with our directorate.

The dialogue has not been broken off. We have called a recess for technical consultations and to examine the current situation. I hope the Colombian Government authorities will be capable of adopting emergency peace measures in response to this violent attack on peace, which must be (?rescued) at all costs. This path to peace is opening. The river of peace is flowing. As on various occasions in the past, the reconciliation process' powerful enemies have arisen, and despite the government's good will [words indistinct].

Mexico has been a sort of oasis for many Latin American negotiations. Its international policy is modern and in line with the policies of the rest of our continent. If you will allow me to say so, Mexico is where Latin America begins. [end recording]

Meanwhile, President Virgilio Barco's representative said the Colombian government decided to open peace negotiations with the guerrillas because of the good will displayed by the M-19.

Government, M-19 Resume Talks

PA0403190689 Bogota Invision Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 1812 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Report by Margarita Rodriguez from Mexico City]

[Text] Patriotism and determination are necessary to find points of agreement and ways to achieve peace in Colombia. Here in Mexico City we can see some rays of hope; however, more may be necessary. The Colombian Government has called together all the armed rebel groups to sit around a negotiating table and discuss ways to achieve a peaceful coexistence. Some M-19 rebels, staying outside of Colombia for one reason or another, are now living in Mexico and want to talk. The fifth round of talks began with hopes of clearing the charges against several of the rebels who wish to return to Colombia. However, the talks were interrupted by the bloody incident that resulted in the death of Jose Antequera, member of the Patriotic Union [UP].

[Begin recording] [Mercedes Oliveros, UP representative in Mexico] We deeply regret Antequera's death. We feel that if voices of protest were raised around the world to protest the terror and impunity that reigns in Colombia, we would be able to stop the paramilitary groups from bleeding and killing the Colombian people.

[Rafael Pardo Rueda, Colombian Government presidential adviser for peace and rehabilitation] We have been deeply hurt by Jose Antequera's death, the wounding of Ernesto Samper, and the deaths of an Attorney General's office representative and Antequera's bodyguards. [end recording]

The search for peace cannot be delayed. It calls for hard work, and hesitancy and niceties cannot be accepted. Bullets continue to kill. Every minute, every second counts. Taking time, means death; acting now, means saving lives.

Yesterday's violence in El Dorado, Bogota, brought grief and sorrow to Mexico City where Colombian Government and M-19 representatives are gathering around the negotiating table. However, the struggle for peace and democracy must survive.

Communique Released

PA0503045689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0328 GMT
5 Mar 89

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Mar (AFP)—Colombian Government and 19 April Movement [M-19] delegates ended the meeting they began here yesterday with a call for the other Colombian leftist groups up in arms "to also express their willingness for peace."

Presidential Peace Adviser Rafael Pardo and his assistants Reinaldo Gary and Ricardo Santamaria represented the Colombian Government at the meeting and Commander Antonio Navarro Wolf, Rafael Vergara, Gerardo Pardo, and Ruben Carvajalino represented the M-19.

In a communique released today at the end of the meeting, both parties agreed "to hold a working session in which the government, the political parties represented in the Colombian Parliament, and the M-19 will participate." The purpose of that meeting is to draw up an agenda for a direct dialogue with other groups in the country.

The government promised to offer "security and escorts to the M-19 members that join the country's democratic life" in several Colombian cities to try to protect their lives from paramilitary attacks, Pardo said.

The communique adds: "The specific offer for a dialogue continues to be available for other groups that are part of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board," to which the various Colombian rebel groups belong.

Pardo and Navarro were optimistic over the declaration of a unilateral truce decreed last [words indistinct] the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the oldest and largest rebel group in Colombia.

In addition, Pardo admitted that some Army members are being tried because of their involvement in several political murders and he said that "if they are found guilty, the weight of the law will fall upon them."

Commander Navarro said: "The problem of achieving peace does not only concern the government and the guerrilla movements. Those who really own the country are obligated to support this process. It would be very good if Julio Mario Santodomingo, Carlos Ardila Lule, and other powerful men would say that they are willing to contribute to attaining peace."

Pardo reiterated that "the M-19 has shown an attitude that grants it credibility" and asserted that the government "has taken no measures in view of the truce decreed by the FARC."

The new M-19 legal "spokesmen," who will join the political discussions and who will be granted official escorts, "will be M-19 members who live outside Colombia and who will return to Colombia to participate in the talks," Pardo added.

Finally, the M-19 requested the abolition of several decrees sanctioning the existence of armed self-defense groups and the adoption of special "measures" to grant credibility to the peace process.

The meeting, which began at noon on 3 March, was temporarily suspended for 2 hours when the news about the murder that day in Bogota of Jose Antequera, a Patriotic Union (UP) leader, became known. The meeting in Mexico is the third one held this year. The M-19 and the Colombian Government had met before on 10 January and 8 February in the mountains of Colombia.

ELN Agrees To Join Talks

PA0403051789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0428 GMT
4 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Bogota, 3 Mar (EFE)—The Army of National Liberation (ELN), one of the six guerrilla groups operating in Colombia, agreed in a note delivered to EFE today to "reach an agreement with the government to humanize the war."

The group insists, however, that it is necessary to end the "dirty war" that is "bleeding" the country and to end the impunity with which paramilitary groups are acting in the country. Official sources estimate the number of such groups at over 140.

The note is addressed to a commission of prominent Colombians created this week at the request of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) to prepare the groundwork for direct contacts with the government similar to those already under way with the 19 April Movement (M-19).

The ELN insists that a willingness to eliminate "the dirty war and humanize the conflict" can only contribute to the peace process.

According to this pro-Castro guerrilla group, "President Virgilio Barco's administration does not want to acknowledge to the country and the world its political and moral responsibility for the immeasurable bloodshed into which the nation has sunk."

"Our organization feels it is unacceptable to consider any other political premise than that of facing up to the dirty war and humanizing the conflict," the note adds. It is signed by Manuel Perez, ELN political officer, and Nicolas Rodriguez, military commander. [passage omitted]

UP Condemns Leader's Killing; 'Charges' Barco

PA0503034989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0208 GMT
5 Mar 89

[Text] Bogota, 4 Mar (EFE)—The Patriotic Union (UP) National Coordinating Board decided today not to participate in the negotiations with the government as long as "political actions" are not taken to guarantee the lives of its members, it was reported today.

One of the top UP leaders, Urias Ollaga, told EFE today that "there is not a climate of safety" for the members of his party, which was founded in 1985 and which is the only leftist party with representatives in the Colombian parliament.

Jose Antequera, member of the UP Central Committee and former president of the Colombian communist youth, was assassinated last Friday at Bogota's El Dorado International Airport.

"We demand effective political action to dismantle the paramilitary groups that kill our comrades with impunity and to purge the Armed Forces that protect them," said Ollaga, who also announced that the UP will not participate "in any negotiation process as long as those who represent us are getting killed and as long as we are prevented from carrying out the political activities to which we are entitled under the Constitution."

Ollaga said that his party is preparing formal charges against Colombian President Barco for not fulfilling his "constitutional responsibilities to guarantee the lives of all citizens." According to Ollaga, Barco is "responsible and an accomplice" of the political assassinations that have taken place in Colombia because of his "failure" to fulfill his duties.

Bernardo Jaramillo, president of the UP and now in "temporary exile," was informed about the recent assassination of Antequera and of his party's decision to extend his stay in Europe until there are "real guarantees" for his life, Ollaga said.

The UP National Coordinating Board has planned a march for Monday in downtown Bogota as a tribute to Jose Antequera, 33, who is survived by his two children. Since its founding 4 years ago, the UP has lost almost 1,000 members through assassinations as well as most of its councilmen, mayors, and governors.

'Text' of FARC Cease-Fire Document Published

PA0503021389 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
1 Mar 89 pp 1-A, 7-A

["Text" of cease-fire document issued by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, to conservative Senator Alvaro Leyva Duran from the mountains of Colombia on 28 February]

[Text] We are satisfied with the response we have received from former Presidents Misael Pastrana Borrero and Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Cardinal Mario Revollo Bravo, Dr Fabio Echeverri Correa, president of the National Industrialists Association [ANDI], and EL TIEMPO Director Hernando Santos Castillo, who have agreed to promote a high-level search for paths leading to a definite solution to the long and painful conflict that is bleeding the country.

Dr Hernando Santos Castillo signed the response to which we refer, although apparently he does not wish to participate in promoting the proposal, alleging that this may interfere with his functions as director of the newspaper EL TIEMPO. We deplore his decision, which will prevent him from shedding light on a process that will certainly lead to peace in Colombia.

This new peace process began with Senator Alvaro Leyva Duran's peace initiative, which we regard as clear, precise, and devoid of futile arrogance; and therefore it forms the basis for a genuine plan for national peace.

One must consider the spirit and letter of our proclamation: "It can thus be established that the proposed commission will designate representatives from the most varied national sectors, so that with us, and later with the other members of the coordinating board, these representatives will realize the goodwill behind our proposal. We recommend studying the ideas behind the various points of our proposed definite solution to the painful and long conflict that is bleeding the country." In keeping with your response, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to advise you of the unilateral cease-fire order issued today to the FARC fronts throughout the country. The order reads:

Cease-fire order to FARC fronts throughout the country:

After publicly learning of the agreement by former Presidents Misael Pastrana Borrero, Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Cardinal Mario Revollo Bravo, Dr Fabio Echeverri Correa, president of ANDI, and Hernando Santos Castillo, director of EL TIEMPO, to promote the peace initiative contained in the recent proclamation issued by the FARC General Staff, we order all our fronts:

1. To observe a unilateral cease-fire as of 1800 hours on 28 February 1989.
2. In the event of attacks or military operations, you are within your rights to exercise your legitimate defense.

FARC General Staff, Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board, Manuel Marulanda Velez, Jacobo Arenas, Alfonso Cano, Raul Reyes, Timoleon Jimenez, mountains of Colombia, 28 February 1989.

Government Comments on Document

PA0403035689 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
1 Mar 89 p 7-A

["Text" of statement issued by Government Minister Raul Orejuela Bueno on 28 February; place not given]

[Text] The government believes that the [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC] document shows a positive attitude and a willingness to promote the process initiated by the government. The document does not attempt to countermand or interfere with the actions implemented by the government.

We believe that the document also contributes to the peace initiative. The government is pleased to receive the expressions of support that these prominent Colombians have given to the peace process initiated with the M-19.

We believe that their position agrees with the government position, specifically that the reconciliation process cannot be promoted if the guerrillas do not demonstrate their willingness to support the peace process through very clear actions, such as a unilateral cease-fire.

Dynamite Found in Metropolitan Cathedral

PA0303000189 Bogota Inravisión Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Something unprecedented has happened at Bogota's Metropolitan Cathedral: 26 sticks of dynamite were found under one of the pews. Five prelates of the Metropolitan Curia were in the cathedral at that time. Maria Clara Gracia has this report:

[Begin recording] A bomb should have gone off this morning at the cathedral in downtown Bogota. The Workers Liberation Forces [Fuerzas Obreras de Liberación] are responsible for the would-be attack. The church's security personnel detected the explosives, three pamphlets, and a letter during a routine inspection. The letter, addressed to the church, demanded justice from the police and upbraided the local media for not allowing Colombians to express themselves. The letter's author, who has yet to be identified, said he carried out an attack in another church on 27 October. He also demands that Dario de Jesus Alvarez, alias Christian or the Magician, should be arrested for swindling entire towns. The bomb contained 2 kg of black powder, 1 kg of grapeshot, and three heavy steel balls, each weighing one-quarter of a pound. It had a wireless detonator and a slow-burning fuse. [end recording]

65 Illegal Drug Labs Dismantled in Operation

PA0503140089 Bogota Inravisión Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Operation Spring in El Zarzal has culminated in a large number of arrests. A total of 22 suspected drug traffickers who were working in cocaine laboratories were captured by police. Among those arrested is an Argentine citizen who owned one of the labs.

The raid and destruction of laboratories in El Zarzal brought to 65 the number of labs dismantled in Operation Spring. In addition, 3 and 1/2 tons of cocaine and 540,000 gallons of ether, gasoline, and chemicals were found.

A huge laboratory called The Scorpion was discovered, where authorities confiscated 1,200 kg of cocaine and tons of processing material, including barrels of ether, acids, coca paste, and microwave ovens, among other things. This gigantic lab was used to process up to 2,000 kg of cocaine a week, which were transported directly to the United States.

After an intensive chase, five more individuals were arrested, bringing the total number of arrests to 26 [number as heard].

The operation also resulted in the confiscation of 15 short-range weapons and 16 vehicles, including campers and cars.

Following the discovery of three more laboratories in the area, police are looking for other farms apparently used for this purpose in Valle del Cauca.

Valle del Cauca Lab Razed

PA0603004789 Bogota Invision Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Summary] The police have dismantled another large cocaine laboratory in northern Valle del Cauca. Twenty-six members of the El Alacran group were arrested, and police seized 1,200 kg of cocaine, 14 handguns, one shotgun, three scales, a wrapping machine, 15 microwave ovens, two platforms for the drying of cocaine, extractor fans, 14 vehicles, 2 motorcycles, and communications equipment. Pilatas farm, where the large laboratory was located, was once a sugar mill and the registered owner is Clelia de Renteria; however, the owners of the laboratory that produced 2,000 kg of cocaine a week were Argentine citizen Mario Escurraín and Colombian Mauricio Espinoza. No cash was found at any of the laboratories.

Peru

Government Extends State of Emergency

PY0403030189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0200 GMT
3 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Lima, 3 Mar (EFE)—Today the Peruvian Government extended for another 60 days the state of emergency and suspended individual rights in seven Peruvian departments, plus Lima and the port of El Callao.

The decree, which is in force as of 4 March, is published today in the gazette "EL PERUANO." This measure affects the following departments: Apurimac, with the exception of one province, Huancavelica, San Martin, Junin, Pasco, Ayacucho, and Huanuco.

The areas in a state of emergency occupy 250,000 sq km, about 20 percent of the entire nation.

The population of that area, including Lima and the port of El Callao, represents almost half of Peru's 21 million people.

The decree is signed by President Alan Garcia, Prime Minister Armando Villanueva, and former Interior Minister Juan Soria. It is dated 28 February. [passage omitted]

1989 Political Death Toll Reaches 313

PY0403180289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0358 GMT
4 Mar 89

[Text] Lima, 3 Mar (EFE)—The Committee for National Peace [Comision de Pacificacion Nacional] headed by United Left Senator Enrique Bernales, today reported that 313 persons died as a result of political violence in Peru during the first 2 months of this year: 204 persons died in January and 109 died in February.

The committee reported that urban violence such as accidents, murders, armed robberies and so forth caused the death of 440 persons during the first 2 months of this year.

In February 4 military men, 10 policemen, 67 civilians, and 28 terrorists died as a result of political violence. The civilians who died were 28 peasants, 12 workers, and 9 students. [civilian death totals as received]

Since it began in May 1980, political violence in Peru has caused the death of 12,926 persons, according to the Senate committee.

Shining Path Kills 38 Peasants in Ayacucho

PY0403025389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0516 GMT
3 Mar 89

[Text] Ayacucho, 2 Mar (EFE)—The political-military command tonight confirmed that Shining Path terrorists used machetes to kill 38 peasants, among them a 9-month-old baby, in a distant region of the troubled Peruvian Province of Ayacucho.

A military spokesman said that according to survivors, boats carrying at least 200 "Shining Path" guerrillas arrived in Canaire on 27 February, taking advantage of the fact that most of the peasants were engaged in routine tasks outside the town.

He added that the terrorists easily entered the town disguised as soldiers and civil guards (rural police). The authorities thought the terrorists were members of a military patrol on a reconnaissance operation.

"Once they took control of the town, the terrorists compelled the men, including several civilian authorities, to lie down on the ground. They then slaughtered them with machetes and knives," the source said.

The terrorists locked up the women inside an Evangelical church. As one of the women tried to escape with her 9-month-old child, she was shot dead, and one of the bullets hit the child's head, the spokesman said.

Survivors who managed to get to the Navy Infantry Base in Lohegua, a few kilometers from Canaire, led the military men to the scene.

The Navy established that the "Shining Path" terrorists set some 10 houses afire, looted stores, and left subversive propaganda in the town.

Most of the 15,000 casualties that terrorism has claimed since 1980 have been in Ayacucho, the birthplace of the "Shining Path." Ayacucho is 576 km southeast of Lima.

Venezuela

Further Reports on Countrywide Disturbances

Caracas 'Relatively Calm'

PA0303135989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1041 GMT
3 Mar 89

[Text] Caracas, 3 Mar (AFP)—According to early reports today, the night of 2 March was relatively calm in Caracas. Scattered gunfire from government troops was heard in several parts of the city, while buildings and boarding houses continued to be searched for looted merchandise.

As the result of riots, lootings, and the repression that followed, between 300 and 500 people have been killed in the past 4 days, according to press reports based on information gathered at hospitals and morgues.

Gunfire was heard in El Valle, a low-cost housing area in southwest Caracas, but the shooting subsided near midnight.

Residents of the 23 January neighborhood in the western section of the city also reported hearing gunfire, though it was reported to be less intense than it was early Wednesday, when snipers were firing at government troops.

Sporadic gunfire was heard in downtown Caracas and in the city's eastern areas.

Early radio reports included appeals by several Caracas hospitals for blood donors.

Traffic slowly returned to normal after 1000 GMT (0600 local time), when the curfew in force since 2200 GMT (1800 local time) on Thursday expired. The curfew and the rights suspension was established for an indefinite period of time.

'Heavy Gunfire' Reported Again

PA0303161089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1508 GMT
3 Mar 89

[Text] Caracas, 3 Feb (EFE)—While Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez announced that the country was back to normal, heavy gunfire was heard today in some areas of the Venezuelan capital.

In the area of La Rinconada Race Track in southern Caracas, continuous automatic weapons fire and sporadic explosions have been heard since 0900 (1300 GMT).

This situation caused a power outage on the freeway leading out of the capital and in the western part of the country and tied up traffic over a distance of more than 10 km, including downtown Caracas.

Vehicles in the areas where shoot-outs are taking place have been abandoned by their occupants, some of whom threw themselves on the ground to avoid being hit by gunfire.

Some Army trucks carrying soldiers to the areas have been caught in the traffic jam.

According to media reports, similar incidents have occurred in the past few hours in other sectors of Caracas.

The authorities have said that everything is back to normal in the country, except for the capital, where there are still some ongoing demonstrations.

The demonstrations began on Monday against price hikes and resulted in the looting of many stores in Caracas and other cities of the interior.

These actions prompted repression by the security forces and the Army. Thus far, there have been an undetermined number killed and wounded.

Official circles speak of 300 dead and 1,000 injured, but the figures provided by reliable unofficial sources mention two to three times that number.

The government decreed the suspension of several constitutional rights on 28 February, while the Army is enforcing the curfew that was set from 1800 in the afternoon until 0600 in the morning.

Although official circles noted initially that the protest was spontaneous, later "groups of agitators and subversives" were blamed for the incidents.

Hospitals report that the morgues are full.

Perez Blames Riots on Debt

PA0303172589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1530 GMT
3 Mar 89

[Text] Caracas, 3 Mar (DPA)—President Carlos Andres Perez today blamed the serious disturbances that took place in Venezuela this week on the foreign debt that is weighing down the Latin American countries, the unreasonable policies of the industrialized powers, and the accumulated discontent of the masses.

At a breakfast meeting with a group of foreign newsmen, Perez said that close to 300 people were killed in the incidents, most of them from gunshot wounds, but that the situation in the country is now "completely normal."

The president ruled out premeditation, and termed the disturbances—which reached their height on Monday and Tuesday—as a “social explosion” that was not aimed at any particular government or party but was a demonstration of rejection by “the poor against the rich.”

Perez, who was accompanied by Interior Minister Alejandro Izaguirre and Presidency Secretary Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, said that “the incidents were the product of a progressive build up of discontent,” and should be seen as a warning sign, because similar situations have occurred in Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina.

The president asserted: “This is all caused by the crisis that Latin America is experiencing, and which has a name that must be written in capital letters: foreign debt.”

Perez, who took office on 2 February, said that the international financial system—which follows the position of the industrialized countries—compels debtor countries to correct their economic errors, but does not in turn adopt more flexible policies. Instead, it limits itself to “demanding payment without any consideration whatsoever.”

Nevertheless, Perez admitted that all of the blame does not lie with the industrialized countries and the IMF. Latin American governments made a mistake by acquiring credit that was not always used for investment projects, he added, and pointed out that several South American dictatorships used this credit to purchase weapons.

According to the Venezuelan president, concerted action by Latin America is one alternative to face the problem of the debt, which is now some 450 billion (currency not specified). This does not, however, demand the creation of a “debtors club,” the president continued, adding that in his opinion the term is being used by the creditors to distort the group’s objective. “They form a group, however, and no one calls it a usurers’ club,” Perez pointed out.

Perez insisted that Venezuela—which has faithfully paid its interest payments on time and is the only Third World country that has made any payments on the principal—has paid its creditors \$25 billion and yet has not reduced its \$31-billion foreign debt. Fulfilling its obligations, he noted, did not help the country obtain new funds from international banks.

The president also attributed some of the blame for the incidents to past economic mismanagement, but refused to name names even though the newsmen asked him for his opinion of his predecessor and fellow party member Jaime Lusinchi.

The basic error, the president said, was having maintained the policies of consumerism and subsidies even though petroleum had lost its importance as a producer of foreign exchange. In this manner, President Perez justified his continuous calls for a “realistic” economic policy.

As an example, Perez cited the period in which a firm exchange rate was maintained (4.30 bolivares to the dollar), and said that, in his opinion, this caused harm later on.

Perez flatly rejected reports, particularly from European media, that there had been a “civil war” in Venezuela. He also denied having a fear of being overthrown by the military, even at the height of the disturbances, because “I have faith in the democratic calling of our Armed Forces.”

Perez warned that similar incidents might occur in the future if international conditions do not change, and said that it is a cause for serious concern that citizens of some other countries, such as Argentina and Brazil, are beginning to believe that they fared much better under dictatorships.

Perez said that about 300 were killed and “perhaps over 2,000 were injured” in the disturbances. He said that most of the dead were killed by gunfire, denying initial reports that 70 percent of the dead were people who were “beheaded” as they broke into stores to loot them.

The president also corrected a statement by Pastor Heydra Rojas, director of the Central Information Office, who said that three-fourths of those arrested were foreigners. Perez said that illegal activity by foreigners was proportionally low.

Perez expressed understanding for immigrants from other Latin American countries—Colombians, Dominicans, Ecuadoreans, Peruvians, and Haitians—because “the dispossessed have no borders,” and he rejected any attempt to give the incidents xenophobic overtones. Perez also admitted that the fact that the Armed Forces were met with submachinegun fire in some poor neighborhoods, especially in the 23 January and El Valle neighborhoods, indicates that some remnants of the old guerrilla groups remain.

The Venezuelan leader said, however, that he will continue to implement his economic measures, but with some changes, particularly the adoption of policies that will make the burden of the economic adjustments less oppressive for the poorer sectors.

The president pointed out that disturbances did not take place in half of the cities in the country, and that people were killed in only two cities—Valencia and Maracay—and in the Federal District of Caracas.

Perez also confirmed that the Spanish Government, through Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, has offered Venezuela a loan from one Central Bank to another, and gave thanks for the expressions of solidarity he received from many world leaders, including U.S. President George Bush.

Spanish Government spokesman Rosa Conde has announced in Madrid that a short term credit for \$50 million was being granted to "help Venezuela overcome its current liquidity problems."

This week Venezuela, particularly Caracas, has witnessed the most serious incidents in the past 30 years. The country is under a curfew and constitutional rights have been suspended.

Minister on Curfew Suspension

PA0303174489 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network
in Spanish 1650 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Interview with Defense Minister General Italo Del Valle Alliegro by an unidentified reporter at the Defense Ministry in Caracas; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Minister, we understand that the curfew has been suspended in the interior of the country, but that it will continue in Caracas—not from 0600 to 0600, but from 2000 to 0500. What can you tell us about this? Also, is it true that the curfew has been suspended throughout the interior part of the country?

[Del Valle] First, I can state that there is total and absolute normalcy throughout the country, including Caracas. Therefore, the garrison commanders, in coordination with the governors of each state, will either suspend or reduce the hours of curfew according to their respective circumstances. In Caracas the curfew has been modified. It will be in effect from 0800 until... [corrects himself] it begins at 2000 and will last until 0500.

[Reporter] Does this mean the Armed Forces are now in control of the areas of conflict, such as the 23 January neighborhood and other areas where there were a lot of snipers?

[Del Valle] Actually, the number of snipers is less than many thought. What we have had is a lot of alarming calls, which we must counter. There is total and absolute normalcy and the Venezuelan people must not heed such calls. The suspension of the curfew in some parts of the country and its continuation in Caracas does not mean that the Armed Forces will cease to control critical points. The Armed Forces will remain in the streets as long as required and continue to control critical points throughout the country.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, what is your message to the people at this time?

[Del Valle] I send a message of appreciation for their cooperation with the Armed Forces. I ask them to reflect on what has happened so that what happened in Caracas, these sad episodes, will never occur again in our lives. They have left a death toll that does not benefit the country at all and does not change the situation. These have been Venezuelan lives, full of expectation, with much to offer to our dear homeland. These losses are

always negative. Venezuela has its democratic institutions, such as labor organizations and unions, that are called upon to resolve the controversies that exist. We must understand that the situation in the country has changed. If our buying power has been reduced, our earning power necessarily has to be reduced. We must understand these things. God and the Virgin willing, it is hoped we will never again experience these painful situations, because they do not benefit the country at all.

Situation Called 'Normal'

PA0303180089 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Defense Ministry communique issued in Caracas on 3 March]

[Text] The Defense Ministry is hereby complying with its obligation to patriotically urge the people to remain calm and not to believe ill-intentioned rumors spread through telephone calls. These rumors alarm the population because they report situations and events that have not taken place.

We reiterate to our fellow countrymen what the government has said: The public order situation is completely normal throughout the country, especially in the metropolitan area of the capital.

Hostile areas in Caracas have been completely checked and put under control.

The Armed Forces once again state their trust in the democratic disposition of our people who will know how to overcome adversity, as they have always done throughout our republican history.

Normalcy 'Almost' Returns

PA0403151189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1128 GMT
4 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Caracas, 4 Mar (EFE)—Most public services were restored today in the Venezuelan capital following 5 days of rioting that has left about 500 dead from Armed Forces efforts to maintain control of the city.

Caracas, although strewn with garbage and with problems in supplying many products, including caskets, has almost returned to its normal activities.

Transportation and businesses, which had not opened since Monday due to the looting, are now operating normally.

Also, for the first time this week, no shots were heard in most of the zones—although unofficial sources report hearing gunfire in the eastern slums and clashes with the military in the west.

Interior Minister Alejandro Izaguirre told EFE that 98 percent of the country had returned to normalcy as of Friday, but he admitted that certain incidents are still taking place in poor sections of the capital, such as "La Vega," "Catia," and "Macaracuay."

Many people in Caracas have begun a dramatic pilgrimage to look for relatives in the city's hospitals and funeral homes, which are full of corpses.

The Defense Ministry last night reduced the curfew by 3 hours, and it is now in effect from 2000 to 0500 (0000 GMT to 0900 GMT).

The curfew was lifted in Bolivar State, in the southern part of the country, and local authorities in other Venezuelan states plan to lift the curfew as soon as they feel they can safely do so.

Nevertheless, horse races, one of the Venezuelan people's favorite sports, will be held this Sunday in Caracas, which has been the main site of the riots and where the curfew will probably continue for some time.

Horse races, the basis of the largest betting business in the country, will be the first social public activity allowed in the capital since the rioting began.

The government imposed a curfew on Monday and suspended constitutional guarantees that prevent the arrest of citizens without a warrant and establishes the freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, and freedom of movement, among others.

Since public gatherings are still banned, a soccer match for the Libertadores de America Cup between the local Maritimo team and the Brazilian Internacional de Porto Alegre was held on Thursday in an empty stadium.

Another match will be held today Saturday under the same conditions between the Venezuelan team and the Brazilian team Bahia. [Passage omitted]

Some States Suspend Curfews

PA0403195789 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Canal 8 in Spanish 1939 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] A few minutes ago, Merida Governor Orlando Gutierrez announced the suspension of the curfew in that region. Merida joins Zulia, Bolivar, Barinas, Apure, and Trujillo, which have completely suspended the curfew in the last 24 hours.

The decision announced by the governor was made jointly with the commander of the 7th Infantry Brigade, with headquarters in Merida, and other state organizations.

Ministry Reports 243 Deaths

PA0403232589 Paris AFP in Spanish 2201 GMT
4 Mar 89

[Text] Caracas, 4 Mar (AFP)—The disturbance and looting, which shook Venezuela this week, have caused 243 deaths so far, the Interior Ministry has reported. Moreover, Defense Minister Italo Del Valle Alliegro said this figure "is very accurate."

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez told the foreign media yesterday that there had been "some 300 people killed," while the Venezuelan press said the figure was between 350 and 500 people killed.

Situation 'Under Control'

PA0503013589 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Canal 8 in Spanish 0011 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Statement by Presidency Minister Reinaldo Figueredo; place not given—live]

[Text] Venezuelans, the national government informs the country that the unfortunate incidents that took place beginning last Monday have been put under control and that the situation in the entire national territory is completely normal.

Since the government is committed to telling the truth to the country and to speaking absolutely clearly without hiding anything, we are under the obligation to inform you that as a result of the incidents, 246 people were killed, 1,009 were injured by firearms, 218 persons received stab wounds, and 604 were cut by glass. Many people were arrested and there were huge economic losses; the amount has not yet been determined.

Following a careful analysis of the records of those arrested, the national government has ordered police authorities to send to the relevant courts the records of those people involved in crimes. Police authorities have also been ordered to release all those who had been found innocent of active participation in the incidents.

The national government, to safeguard the interests of the population, has implemented a vast supply program aimed at guaranteeing the distribution of staple goods needed by Venezuelan families. This operation will be implemented through discount markets, supermarkets, and special retail stores, which will cooperate fully with the private sector and the national Armed Forces in carrying out this important social task.

In addition, since the situation has returned to normal, the national government has decided to authorize classes to reopen on Monday, 6 March, in elementary schools. The education minister will inform the nation about the gradual opening of other schools next week. Just as the president has said, we will overcome this and all difficulties and, with the support of all Venezuelans, we will come out ahead.

Curfew Lifted in Most Areas

PA0603002389 Paris AFP in Spanish 2356 GMT
5 Mar 89

[Text] Caracas, 5 Mar (AFP)—Defense Minister General Italo del Valle Alliegro announced today the curfew has been lifted throughout the country—except in Caracas, the capital, and the central cities of Maracay and Valencia.

The curfew in Caracas was established between 0000 and 0900 GMT (2000 to 0500 local time).

Perez Announces Suspension of Debt Payment

PA0303150289 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish
1425 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Caracas, 3 Mar (REUTER)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said today that his country has suspended payment on the foreign debt following 4 days of rioting in which, he said, 300 persons died and another 2,000 were wounded.

The president said during a news conference that the suspension on the payment of principal and interest could be indefinite. He said the resumption of payments will depend on economic developments. He said that the next 6 months will be difficult, but afterwards, he said, there could be economic growth.

Perez said that the suspension involves the foreign debt of both the public and the private sector.

On 17 January, Venezuela suspended principal payments on most of the public sector's foreign debt, which totals \$27 billion. Last Sunday, Central Bank President Pedro Tinoco said that principal payments on the private sector's foreign debt, which totals \$5 billion, would be suspended on 1 March.

Perez did not say whether the suspension of payments includes payments on debts owed to foreign governments and international organizations. These debts represent a small percentage of the total foreign debt.

Suspension 'Indefinite'

PA0303161989 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Canal 8 in Spanish 1527 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has announced that interest and capital amortization payments of the country's foreign debt have been suspended for an indefinite time. He also said this measure includes public and private foreign debt and that the resumption of payments will depend on the behavior of the economy. The next 6 months appear to be difficult, although economic growth has been predicted, he said.

On 17 January, Venezuela suspended capital amortization payments of the major portion of its public foreign debt, which amounts to \$27 billion. In addition, Central

Bank President Pedro Tinoco announced on 26 February that payments to amortize the private foreign debt, which amounts to \$5 billion, would be suspended on 1 March.

Perez Statements Clarified

PA0403175989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1108 GMT
4 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Caracas, 4 Mar (EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez' statements reiterating Venezuela's suspension of foreign debt payments unleashed an international furor and forced ranking Venezuelan Government officials to hastily deny the report.

Perez said on Friday at a meeting with foreign correspondents that his country had been forced to suspend payments on its debt, the fourth largest in Latin America, exceeding \$30 billion.

Perez said the suspension will be for a certain period of time—which he did not specify, even though he was asked how many months would be involved—which, he added, "depends on how the economic process develops."

The president, who took office on 2 February, did not make what could be considered such an important announcement, since in December and February other Venezuelan authorities, among them his predecessor Jaime Lusinchi, made the same announcement.

Among some media sources, however, Perez' words were interpreted as a unilateral debt moratorium declaration resulting from the bloody riots that erupted in the country in reaction to the economic austerity program he has imposed.

The Venezuelan Government denied international media reports on the debt issue, and government debt negotiator Edgar Leal also denied that certain decisions had been made regarding the debt, though Pedro Tinoco, president of the Venezuelan Central Bank, had announced these decisions last week.

A Finance Ministry communique published in Caracas carried statements made by Leal in New York, in which he denied that Perez had suspended debt payments.

Leal's statements confirmed that the suspension of principal payments on the public debt, which went into effect on 17 January, was not, in effect, announced by Perez but by Lusinchi, who had made an agreement with creditors.

Lusinchi said the suspension would be for 90 days, while Perez has given the impression that, for the time being, the suspension will be indefinite, although he also may reach an agreement with the creditors to extend the 3-month deadline, thus avoiding a moratorium.

Perez apparently decided to suspend principal and interest payments on the private debt—approximately \$4 billion—which Tinoco admitted in an interview published last week. Tinoco has not refuted the published interview.

Leal also said, according to the Finance Ministry communique, that Venezuela has not suspended interest payments on the public debt, which exceeds \$26 million.

The Finance Ministry communique, which quoted his statements, mentioned, nevertheless, that a "deferment proposal" on the interest payments had been made to the creditor banks. [passage omitted]

Official Denies Suspension

PA0303200389 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish
1918 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] New York, 3 Mar (REUTER)—Edgar Leal, who heads the Venezuelan foreign debt negotiating delegation, has said that his country has not suspended payments of interest on its foreign debt and that reports to the contrary "are groundless."

During a telephone interview with REUTER, Leal said he spoke with President Carlos Andres Perez and that the president denied saying at a news conference today that interest payments had been indefinitely suspended.

Leal, who arrived in New York to negotiate a \$600-million stopgap loan with commercial banks, said: "Perez did not say interest payments will be suspended. This is a serious misunderstanding. We intend to keep paying interest."

Leal also said he told bankers in early March that Venezuela's illiquidity has worsened and that payments of the public foreign debt interest will continue to be made as long as foreign reserves remain adequate.

His reassurance included payments of interest and amortization of the principal of the private foreign debt to commercial banks.

He said all the other foreign debt obligations will continue to be met on schedule.

Leal said he will attend a meeting of the creditor banks committee today to clarify Venezuela's position. "We are still negotiating with the banks," he added.

Venezuela is trying to secure \$2 billion in fresh money from the banks in 1989, including a \$600-million stopgap loan.

Leal declined to give any details of the negotiations.

Perez on Letters to Bush, IMF Director

PA0603042989 Paris AFP in Spanish 0258 GMT
6 Mar 89

[Text] Caracas, 5 Mar (AFP)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez revealed tonight he wrote a letter to U.S. President George Bush on the eve of the social upheaval 27 February in Venezuela, in which he voiced "a firm stand" regarding the debt and the attitude of the industrialized countries.

Perez made this disclosure during an interview on the Caracas Radio Television (Channel 2) program "Prime Time," although he declined to give any more details, "because it involved matters still under discussion through these discreet channels."

He said he had the letter ready to be signed on 27 February, when the looting and riots broke out. He added a postscript in his own handwriting: "Mr President, it was a premonition that made me write you this letter. See what has happened in Venezuela 'because of this and that...' and I explained the situation."

"In fact, President (Jose) Sarney of Brazil called me and said he had talked with President Bush in Japan and had given him an exact picture of the Latin American situation—it seemed as if it were a premonition, because the riots broke out in Caracas 2 days later."

He added Sarney also warned Bush about this situation and told him this means "an awareness has been created in all of our countries that we are no longer willing to tolerate this injustice."

"I do not say this out of courage or as a challenge to the large industrialized countries or with the will to confront the large industrialized countries."

"I do so to say there is an awareness in Latin America that is going to make us act, not with the good rhetoric we have used thus far, but with firm action: demanding we be heard and receive the treatment we deserve."

He stressed: "Therefore, governments must strive to achieve joint action in keeping with their domestic decisions, to show that if we want to correct the errors committed, we must obtain the industrialized countries' commitment to change the treatment they have given us."

Perez said this was also the objective of his letter to IMF Director-Manager Jean Michel Camdessus, in which he said, "You are right in what you say, but that is not going to lessen the truth that the IMF is to blame for a system of international injustice that keeps our developing countries subjected to that circumstance."

Marcel Granier, moderator of the program, asked Perez about the statements made by his predecessor in the Presidency, his fellow Social Democratic Party member,

Jaime Lusinchi, who admitted having been deceived by the international banks with promises of fresh money—as justification for having paid more than \$23 billion during his administration.

Perez answered that “all Latin American countries have suffered the consequences of having been too credulous about the goodness with which the industrialized nations and the international banking sector could act.”

Perez added: “We are becoming convinced that such goodness is not true.” Perez added: “We need assistance from the industrialized countries—we could not act without them—but they also need us, so we must take advantage of that interdependence.”

The Venezuelan president rejected “a trust” based “on the paternalism of the industrialized world” and asserted that as president, he will “not leave things at the expense of anyone’s, any country’s, or any situation’s goodwill. Everything must be framed within agreements and treaties.”

Perez said he recently talked with “all the Latin American democratic presidents. The topic of the industrialized countries was mandatory, and they all showed the same willingness to maintain a very firm and more direct position—with more actions and less rhetoric—regarding the situation we are now facing.”

Perez, however, reiterated he will maintain his economic policy—which sparked the conflict that began 27 February, when increases in fuel prices and public transportation fares entered into effect—“to begin growing and to seriously improve Venezuelans’ standard of living and welfare.”

“We have no other choice but to bring the Venezuelan economy out into the open [sincerar la economia venezolana]. However, we must be prudent enough to know how we should face each situation,” Perez said.

In addition, President Perez said the authorities are investigating the incidents that took place last week, because “we cannot remain calm and quiet before a group of people who took advantage of certain circumstances to commit a series of crimes and who tried to create a certain atmosphere of a pseudoviolent, revolutionary struggle.”

Perez said: “We are willing to punish those actions,” and he added that as Venezuelan president, he and his government must guarantee peace and security to all Venezuelans.

Perez said that although criminals and violent groups, “which are mentioned as part of an absurd revolution,” participated in the recent riots and looting, “we cannot say the incidents are a result of their actions.”

He said the incidents were the “result of the injustices on which our society is founded,” adding that the disorders were “an expression of forces that have been restrained for a long time and that had been facing injustices and uncertainty, so any pretext would spark the protests.”

Perez urged all Venezuelans to “make sacrifices,” “if we really want to take advantage of the situation and provide the country with a sound economy.”

Spain Grants Credit for Economic Recovery
PA0303154889 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish
1513 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Madrid, 3 Mar (REUTER)—The Spanish Government today approved a \$50-million credit to help Venezuela recover from the economic woes that triggered this week’s disturbances in which 200 people were killed.

Official spokeswoman Rosa Conde told newsmen that the loan was approved during the cabinet’s weekly meeting.

Conde said the conditions of the credit were favorable, but she did not elaborate. The Banco de Espana and the Venezuelan Central Bank are studying new loans.

The official spokeswoman added that Spain will also send basic products to Venezuela in the immediate future.

She said that this assistance to Venezuela falls within the context of her country’s policy with regard to friendly democratic nations, and that the assistance was discussed during President Carlos Andres Perez’s visit in January, before his election 1 month ago.

Perez increased the price of gasoline and bus fares this week in order to comply with austerity measures required to obtain a vital \$4.3 billion IMF loan.

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